

North-China Herald

AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

VOL. LX., No. 1594.

SHANGHAI, FEBRUARY 21, 1898.

PRICE, Tls. 12 ½ AN.

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England	Jan. 14	Hankow	Feb. 18
San Francisco	15	Yokohama	14
Hongkong	Feb. 16	Nagasaki	18
Tientsin	Jan. 30	Foochow	13

Shanghai mail advices of the 7th of Jan. were received in London on the 14th of Feb.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, MONDAY, FEB. 21, 1898.

THE EXPLOSION AT HAVANA.

BEFORE writing on the terrible disaster that has befallen the United States' navy we have been waiting in the hope that the cable would give us some further details, in the vain hope that some mitigating news would come. The disaster itself is one, like the foundering of the *Victoria* after collision with the *Camperdown* in the Levant, to fill the world with horror. The loss of a great ship in battle with the greater part of her crew is bad enough, but it is an incident of warfare which must be expected, and for which the sailor cannot be unprepared. It is disasters like this, which come like thunderbolts from a clear sky, which impress the mind again with the feeling of the uncertainty of existence, that indeed in the midst of life we are in death. As in the case of the *Royal George* :—

" 'Twas not in the battle,
No tempest gave the shock,
She sprang no fatal leak,
She ran upon no rock."

Lying quietly at anchor in the beautiful harbour of the capital of the Pearl of the Antilles, a basin in which a thousand big ships can lie in security, opposite one of the most picturesque and imposing cities in the new world, her crew without a thought of danger in their minds, the great battleship *Maine*, with her fires out, and nothing to indicate the approach of any peril, looks the picture of might in repose.

Her officers are many of them on shore, enjoying the attractions of the city, some of them visiting their colleagues on the other warships in the harbour, for all naval officers, whatever their flag, are colleagues and comrades. Her crew are busy with light tasks or idling in the bright winter sunshine of the tropics. Suddenly, there is a roar, a shock, a volume of flame and smoke bursts up from the smooth sea; fragments of wood and steel and human beings fly upwards and all round; the hull of the great ship, torn by the mighty force suddenly created in her hold, sinks down, and two hundred and fifty men, representatives of the highest types of humanity, are taken from the world. It is too difficult to picture the horror of it; to those who saw it, it must be a memory to carry to their graves.

How it happened will possibly never be known. Every great warship is a possible volcano, that may become active at any moment; her magazines are filled with explosives, and it is only by the constant observation of the strictest precautions that such a disaster as that which has erased the *Maine* from the roll of the United States navy is prevented from occurring more often. From the beginning of their career the *Maine* and *Texas* have been unlucky ships, but no-one could even have dreamt that the *Maine's* ill-luck would have such a tragic termination. It is a deep relief and satisfaction to us all to know that it is accepted at Washington that the explosion was purely accidental. Feeling has been running high between the United States and Spain; and the sudden destruction of a United States ship in a Spanish harbour, with such a terrible loss of life, had at first an ominous look. Spain has joined the other civilised Powers—as to these we have no information directly as yet, but we may be sure they have not been indifferent—in expressing sympathy with the navy and nation of the United States in the calamity that has befallen them. We English in China are specially affected by the disaster, for we look on Uncle Sam's ships of war with only slightly less affection than that we feel for the Queen's ships. A fine ship is gone by what we lightly call an accident, and with her, but not ingloriously, two hundred and fifty-five good men and true:

"Toll for the brave!
The brave that are no more!
All sunk beneath the wave!"

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL.

It will be seen with great satisfaction that an influential Committee has been formed to give a public dinner to Mr. A. R. Burkill, Chairman of the Municipal Council, on the eve of his departure for home. It is quite right that the community should recognise in this English fashion the good work that Mr. Burkill has done in the curtailed year during which he has been Chairman of the Council.

Elected after the resignation of the previous Council in consequence of the public dissatisfaction with the latter's conduct of the case of the wheelbarrow men, Mr. Burkill and his colleagues have had a stormy and difficult year. It is no secret that they did not find municipal matters in very good condition. In the finances, in the police department, and in the health department there were things which demanded handling with resolution and ability, in which reforms were absolutely required, but were not pleasant to undertake. Mr. Burkill and his colleagues have grappled boldly and successfully with difficulties, necessarily incurring criticism—not always just or kind, but doing what they believed to be the best for the interests of the community without fear or favour. When we see that the Committee includes nearly all Mr. Burkill's colleagues, and know that it is proposed that the chair at the dinner shall be taken by the Vice-Chairman of the Council that Mr. Burkill and his colleagues succeeded, we may be sure that those colleagues recognise that Mr. Burkill has not been merely nominally the master-spirit in the municipal board-room. We hope and believe that in times of crisis Shanghai will always find men with public spirit and energy to take the helm of our local government; and when they come forward and show their mettle, without hope or expectation of any tangible reward, it is right that the community should recognise their devotion, as is to be done in the case of Mr. Burkill by the proposed public dinner.

Summary of News.

The French mail of the 15th of January arrived here on the 19th inst. by the M.M. Co.'s steamer *Océanien*.

The Canadian mail of the 31st of January arrived here on the 20th inst. by the steamer *Empress of Japan*.

A MAIL leaves to-morrow morning for Europe by the M.M. Co.'s steamer *Sydney*.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

SUPPLIED THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY EXCLUSIVELY TO THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

London, 14th February.

GREAT BRITAIN'S REQUESTS.

Great Britain is negotiating at Peking for the navigation of inland

waters and the opening of Yuenchou (? Yochou) in Hunan.

China has granted to Great Britain the right to extend the Burma Railway through Yunnan.

SATISFACTION OF THE FRENCH CLAIM.

China has agreed to give compensation for the kidnapping of a Frenchman in Tongking.

HOME RULE DEFEATED AGAIN.

Mr. John Redmond, M.P. for Waterford, moved an amendment to the address in favour of an independent Irish Parliament and Executive. The amendment was rejected by a majority of 150.

Sir William Harcourt declined to support the measure, because it ignored Imperial supremacy. The Liberals voted in the majority.

MR. GLADSTONE'S RECOVERY.

Mr. Gladstone is steadily improving in health.

CRICKET IN AUSTRALIA.

New South Wales has beaten Mr. Stoddart's Eleven by 239 runs.

London, 15th February.

THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

Sr. Delome's letter, besides the personal reflections on President McKinley, also implied duplicity on the part of Spain in the reciprocity negotiations with the United States.

It is now reported that Mr. Woodford—American Minister at Madrid—has been instructed to demand the immediate disavowal of the reported naval activity in Spain.

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS.

The Russian Volunteer cruiser *Tamboff* has left Odessa for Vladivostock with a thousand troops on board.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced of Count Kalnoky.

London, 16th February.

THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

The United States Government has demanded that Spain shall disavow Sr. Delome's letter.

THE VICTORIOUS' CAREER CHECKED.

H.M.S. *Victorious* is aground in the Suez Canal and will be compelled to discharge her coal and probably her guns.

[The maximum draught of the *Victorious* is 27 feet 6 inches.—Ed.]

THE SCANDAL IN HIGH LIFE.

Lord William Nevill has been sentenced to five years' penal servitude for fraud.

London, 17th February.

TERRIBLE DISASTER TO THE U.S. NAVY.

A terrible explosion has taken place on the United States battleship *Maine* while anchored in Havana harbour. It is reported that the vessel has been totally destroyed, and that two hundred of the crew are missing. The commander was unhurt.

THE NIGER DISPUTE WITH FRANCE.

The Hon. G. N. Curzon—Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs—stated that no agreement has been arrived at in the negotiations with France regarding the Niger, and that he was unable to state the progress of the negotiations.

TO HELP THE VICTORIOUS.

H.M.S. *Revenge* and H.M.S. *Venus* have left Malta to assist in floating H.M.S. *Victorious*.

London, 18th February.

THE EXPLOSION ON THE MAINE.

The death roll of the U.S.S. *Maine* is 253 men and two officers.

It has been officially declared in Washington that the explosion is believed to have been purely accidental.

Spain has expressed her sympathy with the United States in this disastrous accident.

THE DREYFUS SENSATION.

General Pellieux produced an intense sensation at the Zola trial when he declared that the evidence for the defence was calculated to disturb the confidence of the soldiers in their leaders in the day of danger, which was perhaps nearer than was supposed.

This statement is regarded mainly as being intended to influence the jury and the country, to prevent the reopening of the case of Captain Dreyfus, the illegality of whose conviction upon secret documents is becoming generally recognised.

ANOTHER DISASTER IN THE ATLANTIC.

The French Transatlantic steamer *Flachat* has been wrecked at Teneriffe. Forty-nine passengers and thirty-eight of the crew were drowned, and fourteen persons were saved.

London, 19th February.

ANOTHER SENSATION AT THE ZOLA TRIAL.

General Boisdeffre, who appeared in full uniform yesterday at the Zola trial, appealed dramatically to the jury to trust the leaders of the army, but he gave no information with regard to Major Esterhazy, and refused to speak on this subject.

THE BURMA-YUNNAN RAILWAY.

The Hon. G. N. Curzon, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated that he was unable to confirm the report that China had agreed to a railway extension into Yunnan, but that anyhow it is advisable to construct a railway to the frontier before coming to a decision regarding possible extensions beyond the frontier.

THE VICTORIOUS OFF AGAIN.

H. M. S. *Victorious* has been floated.

THE BRITISH LOAN TO CHINA.

Reports have reached Shanghai today that the proposed British loan to China is settled.

The Director of Sicawei Observatory reports: Monday, February 14th, 10 a.m.—State of the atmosphere on the 13th.—The maximum of pressure moves away bodily to Corea while a depression makes its

appearance near Chungking. The monsoon is interrupted from the N. of the Formosa Channel. *State on the morning of the 14th.*—Overcast and mild weather at Shanghai, barometer almost 0.39 in. (10 mm.) below the average. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Variable weather, still liable to rain. Moderate N.E. to S.E. breezes over the N. coast; variable winds in the S.—Tuesday, 15th February, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 14th.*—The high pressures dwell over Japan and the depression in the valley of the Yangtze, deepening considerably, continues to advance to the coast. By evening very light drizzle set in. *State on the morning of the 15th.*—Dull weather with fog or drizzle at Shanghai. Barometer below the average and still on the decline. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Dull and rainy weather till after the passage of the depression. Very variable breezes with calm and fog at places along the entire coast. The northerly wind may in a day or two set in with a frost depending on the rapidity of the barometric rise.—Wednesday, 16th February, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 15th.*—The depression continues to travel to the coast, S. of the Yangtze. Interruption of the monsoon in the S. Dull and rainy weather at Shanghai.—*State on the morning of the 16th.*—Barometer stands 0.51 in. (13 mm.) below the average. Pressure tends to recover. Rainy and mild weather.—*Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Variable weather, still liable to rain, but which may clear up to-morrow. The rise of the barometer may still bring about a N.W. to N.E. gale on the N. coast, between China and Japan and down to the N. of the Formosa Channel. Very variable winds in the S.—Thursday, February 17th, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 16th.*—The depression advances at sea between China and Japan and is followed by a second centre which is nearing Chungking. Strong northerly winds at Vladivostok and Chefoo. Fog in several places.—*State on the morning of the 17th.*—The barometer rises. Rainy and dull weather. Fog at the entrance of the Yangtze. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Variable weather, on account of the second depression which lies in the Valley of the Yangtze. Moderate or fresh N.E. to S.E. breezes in the N.; very variable winds over the S. coast.—Friday, 18th February, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 17th.*—The second depression advances in the valley of the Yangtze and causes a northerly gale in Kiangsi. High pressures over Mongolia. *State on the morning of the 18th.*—The barometer falls rapidly at Shanghai and the wind freshens from N.E. Rainy weather. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—The weather will probably set fair. The low pressures advancing from the coast of China to the Pacific may still occasion strong breezes, or even a gale, from N.W. to N.E. on the N. coast and at sea down to the Formosa Channel.—Saturday, 19th February, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 18th.*—There are two distinct centres of low pressure, the first to the E. of Formosa, the second to the W. of Amoy. Both advance eastwards or N.E.-wards. The weather clears up at Shanghai in the evening. *State of the atmosphere on the 19th.*—Barometer still very low. Overcast weather again. Sunday, 20th February, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 19th.*—A belt of very low pressures extends from S.W. to N.E. from the coast of Annam to the S.E. of Japan, across Formosa and the Pacific. Strong winds from N.E. begin over the Yangtze, the coast of China, and Japan. *State on the morning of the 20th.*—The barometer begins to rise again. Rainy weather. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Rainy weather liable to improve with the rise of the barometer. Very strong winds or a gale from the N. quadrant along the entire coast. The rough weather that has begun to the S.W. of Japan may be experienced on the coast of China.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK. (Thermometers in the open air in a shaded situation in the English Settlement.)

		1898.		Rainfall in inches.
		Fahr.	Thermometer.	
		Min.	Max.	
Feb.	14	46°.4	54°.1	0.03
"	15	49°.0	58°.0	0.65
"	16	49°.8	54°.9	.....
"	17	47°.0	54°.4	0.03
"	18	49°.0	54°.0	0.12
"	19	45°.3	48°.0	0.28
"	20	43°.5	52°.7	0.30

1897.

		Fahr.	Thermometer.	Rainfall
		Min.	Max.	in inches.
Feb.	14	31°.4	43°.3	0.18
"	15	35°.0	42°.3	0.08
"	16	36°.5	40°.0	0.03
"	17	32°.1	39°.9	.....
"	18	33°.4	40°.0 (snow)	0.02
"	19	31°.0	37°.6	do. 0.36
"	20	25°.1	39°.7	.....

A TELEGRAM from Peking received here by the native officials and confirmed from other sources states that the Tsungli Yamén having intimated to the *Corps Diplomatique* that the Emperor would receive them at the usual New Year Audience on Tuesday, the 15th instant, being the 25th of the Chinese moon, the Foreign Representatives declined to attend on the ground that the date fixed was too long after New Year's Day. It is reported that the Austrian Minister was the first to decline the Imperial invitation.

THE colours of the U.S.S. *Monocacy* were half-masted on Friday by telegraphic order from Commodore Dewey, U.S.N., who adds that the explosion by which the *Maine* was destroyed occurred on the 15th instant, and was believed to be an accident.

A PRIVATE telegram received here on Monday conveyed the news that Captain White, formerly marine superintendent of the China Navigation Co., committed suicide by jumping overboard from the *Darmstadt*, by which vessel he was a passenger on the voyage down to Hongkong.

THE flags at the Custom House, the U.S. Consulate-General, and on the men-of-war in harbour, were half-masted on Friday on account of the loss of the U. S. battleship *Maine*.

THE flags at the Consulates were half-masted on Saturday on account of the death of Prince Akira, an adopted brother of the Emperor of Japan, and head of the Imperial house of Yamashina. The deceased prince was of the advanced age of 82, having been born in 1816. He is succeeded by his eldest son, Prince Kikumara, who was born on the 16th of March, 1873.

WE learn that the Anglo-Chinese College in Hongkew, of which the Rev. Young J. Allen, D.D., was formerly, and the Rev. A. P. Parker, D.D., is now the principal, has just entered upon its seventeenth year, under the most favourable auspices. There are twelve teachers in the College, and the number of pupils in the first week has been up to two hundred. The young men and boys educated by it are in great demand for the Government service as well as for private employment, and many of them have obtained positions of much usefulness and responsibility. Since it was first opened in 1882, more than two thousand pupils have attended the College for a longer or shorter period.

VARIOUS conflicting statements as to the amount of the damage caused by the fire at the Jai Khong filature have abounded during the last two days. From a personal inspection of the premises, we can positively state that the fire was almost entirely confined to the boiler house, the filature buildings proper and machinery sustaining next to no injury.

At the annual meeting of the St. Patrick's Society the following gentlemen were elected for the ensuing year:—

President Capt. E. W. Tisdall.
Vice-President ... C. Dowdall, Esq.
Hon. Secretary ... H. C. Manning, Esq.
Hon. Treasurer ... E. J. Colgan, Esq.

The following alterations in the Syllabus of the Shanghai Literary and Debating Society have, of necessity, been made:—On February the 23rd the Rev. W. Nelson Britten will lecture on "Realism and Idealism in Fiction," the "Mock Trial" for that date having been postponed indefinitely. The Shakespearean Evening, fixed for the 9th of March, has been postponed to the 14th of March, owing to an A.D.C. performance clashing with the former date. On the 23rd of March an additional lecture will be delivered by the Rev. J. L. Rees, entitled "Evolution and Christianity."

THE Stewards of the Shanghai Paper Hunt Club have decided that Mr. Benecke on *Freidel* was placed fourth in the hunt on the 12th inst.

THE Stewards of the Shanghai Paper Hunt Club have decided to hold the annual Paper Hunt Races on Saturday, the 5th of March next.

A HAVAS telegram quoted by the *Echo de Chine* says that the French Chamber will probably adjourn in the middle of March, and that the general election will take place on the 8th of May next.

THE *Echo de Chine* says: "A Constantinople paper which reached us lately announces that *Le Vaglion*, one of the latest successes in Paris, was about to be given for the first time at Constantinople. The French A.D.C. here is evidently determined not to be behindhand, for this is the very piece that is being rehearsed at this moment. Without committing any indiscretion, we may say that the piece is as amusing as possible." We may add to this that *Le Vaglion* is a comedy in three acts by Messrs. Bisson and Carré, and that it is to be produced at the Lyceum on the 26th of March.

ON Friday the *Echo de Chine* gave the minutes of the meeting of the French Municipal Council on the 20th ult. There were present Messrs. E. Bard (chairman), C. Dowdall, S. A. Hardoon, Ph. Meugniot, L. Robert, M. Tillot, and R. de Malherbe (secretary); absent, Messrs. B. Buschmann and A. Wright. The business done was almost entirely formal, the only incident of interest being the reading of a letter from M. Louis Moninot, civil engineer, representing the Lyons Syndicate for Industrial Constructions in the Far East, proposing a scheme for a network of electrical tramways in the French Concession. The Council confirmed its opinion of the 20th of December, that the moment has not yet arrived to come to a decision on an enterprise of this nature.

TSAI. Taotai will resume his regular Tuesday At Homes on next Tuesday, the 22nd inst.

Mrs. John Goodnow and Mrs. F. E. Haskell have kindly consented to assist T sai Taotai to receive the ladies at his Weekly Reception on Tuesday, the 22nd instant, from 4 to 6 o'clock.

IT appears that Provincial Treasurer Nieh's rank is considered by the German Minister to be not sufficiently high to entitle him to act as the representative of the Central Government when Prince Henry of Prussia arrives at Shanghai. In consequence of this the Tsungli Yamén has instructed H.E. K'uei Chun, Governor of this province, to come to Shanghai and take H.E. Nieh's place. The latter left for Soochow on Monday to attend to the duties of the Governor in that city during H.E. K'uei's absence. A rumour is also current to the effect that H.E. Viceroy Liu will also come to Shanghai to meet Prince Henry.

THE new Chinese bund is apparently another instance of the way things are

done in China—cheap and nasty. The material used in making up the road is evidently of a very inferior kind and the work has been by no means properly done, for the greater part of the roadway is now strewn with large stones, the material used for binding having washed away. The bund was formerly a favourite route with cyclists going out to the Pagoda, but the best plan now for those who do not wish to ruin their machines is to choose any route rather than that.

COUNT GUSTAV SIEGMUND KALNOKY, whose death is announced by Reuter in another column, came of an old Bohemian family and was born in Moravia in 1832. He entered the Austrian diplomatic service in 1850, and after being Councillor of Legation in London, Minister at Copenhagen, and Ambassador to St. Petersburg was made Austro-Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1881, a post which he held until May, 1895, when he was succeeded by Count Goluchowski, the present Minister.

THE U.S.S. *Maine* was a 2nd-class battleship of 6,682 tons, 9,300 horse-power, and 17½ knots speed, built at New York in 1890. She had a complement of 374 officers and men, and carried ten guns in her main, and nineteen in her secondary battery. The following is a list of her officers:—

Captain—Charles D. Sigsbee, Commanding.
Lieutenant-Commander—Adolph Marx.
Lieutenants—George F. W. Holman, George W. Deufeld, and Carl W. Jungen.
Lieutenants (junior grade)—George P. Blow, John J. Blandin, and Friend W. Jenkins.

Ensign—Charles S. Bookwalter.
Naval Cadets (line division)—Jonas H. Holden, Wat T. Cluverius, Amos Bronson, jr., Needham L. Jones, David F. Boyd, jr., and Oscar D. Duncan.

Surgeon—Lucien B. Heneberger.
Assistant Surgeon—Theodore W. Richards.
Paymaster—Charles W. Littlefield.
Chief Engineer—Charles P. Howell.
P. A. Engineer—Frederic C. Bowers.
Assistant Engineers—Raymond D. Hasbrouck and John R. Morris.
Naval Cadets (engineer division)—Pope Washington and Arthur Crenshaw.

Chaplain—John P. Chidwick.
First Lieutenant of Marines—Charles G. Long.
Boatswain—Francis E. Larkin.
Gunner—Joseph Hill.
Carpenter—George Helms.

Sport and Gossip issued on Friday afternoon the following extra:—

Hongkong, 18th Feb., 1898. 1.55 p.m.
Throughout the races Messrs. Crawford and Willeumeier rode grandly, whilst Messrs. Master and W. Cox showed brilliant form. The riding of Mr. Cox in the Challenge Cup and the Champions was worth going a long way to see. The Parsee Cup was the finest race ever run; half a length covered the first five. *Dogoni Weir* and *Guiding Star* were unplaced by a head, but in the opinion of many *Guiding Star* should have won. The Civil Service Purse only contained thirteen sovereigns, Hi Yah! In the Champions, *Yenesi* was four lengths behind the leaders when entering the straight, and did his last quarter in 28½ secs. Summer heat has prevailed and the penalties accounted for the in and out running. *Roilet* was very unlucky in The Ladies' Purse, owing to being shut in. Mr. McKie received an ovation after winning The Robinson Challenge Cup.

TELEGRAPHIC advices from Tientsin announce the opening of the Peiho, but it is not yet decided when the steamers are to leave Shanghai. The *Peiping*, however, is to leave in a day or two to run coal from Tangku to Port Arthur.

THE Tientsin fleet is to leave here on the 27th inst. Several steamers, however, are to leave at once in ballast for that port to load ground-nuts for Canton and one of the China Merchants' steamers leaves in a day or two with tribute rice.

THE U.S. Customs anti-sealskin regulations have caused such an outcry, that now they are to be admitted in every case

in which the owner gives satisfactory assurances that the furs were bought prior to the enactment of the anti-pelagic regulations.

THE river presented a rather animated scene between two and three o'clock on Thursday afternoon. A large fleet of junks and lorchas were beating down all in a heap, and no less than seven steamers passed the Associated Wharves in less than an hour. The presence of the native craft rendered navigation anything but an easy matter, but there were fortunately no accidents. There were several minor collisions among the junks, but no damage was done.

A NATIVE boat struck the submerged end of the German Consulate jetty on Thursday morning and was so badly damaged that she sank. No lives were lost.

WHEN the *Sachsen*, which arrived here with the German mail on Monday, was passing Socotra she was hailed by the German cruiser *Gefion*, which sent letters on board, and explained that she was trying to find the *Deutschland*. The anxiety that has been felt about Prince Henry is now relieved, for it was learnt on Monday by wire that he is to leave Colombo for the Far East on Tuesday.

H.M.S. *Grafton*, flagship of Rear-Admiral Fitzgerald, with the *Undaunted*, *Narcissus*, and *Daphne*, arrived at Nagasaki on the 12th inst. from Chemulpo. Admiral Dubosshoff sailed with his squadron for Port Arthur on the 4th inst. The little Russian torpedo gunboat *Vendrik* arrived at Nagasaki on the 2nd inst. from Vladivostok having left that place on the 27th ult. and getting out through the ice without any difficulty. A large Russian squadron from Port Arthur was expected at Nagasaki on the 14th inst.

As previously reported, H.M.S. *Algerine* is now in Tungadoo Dock undergoing the repairs necessitated by her recent collision and stranding near Ningpo. The damage she has sustained is more serious than was at first anticipated. Her port bulwarks, close to the break of the poop, were badly damaged by the collision with the junk, and one of her boats was smashed and another damaged. The damage caused by the stranding, however, is a much more serious affair. Her false keel was almost completely ripped off, a small piece a few feet immediately abaft the forefoot being all that remains. The starboard bilge keel has disappeared entirely, only the bolts and torn copper sheathing remaining to show where it had been. The port bilge keel, also sustained some little damage and one of the blades of the port propeller shows signs of damage. The repairs will take some time to effect and will cost a considerable sum.

H.M. torpedo-boat destroyer *Hart* arrived from Tanghai on Wednesday, and returned on Thursday.

H.M.S. *Handy* arrived here on Saturday morning, leaving again yesterday morning with the mail for Tanghai.

THE Russian Volunteer steamer *Ekaterrinoslav* arrived at Odessa on Wednesday.

THE U.S.M. steamer *Gaelic* arrived at San Francisco on the 13th inst. from Yokohama.

THE U.S.M. steamer *Peru* arrived at Yokohama from San Francisco on Wednesday.

THE *Bengal* with the incoming English mail left Singapore at 6 p.m. on Monday for Hongkong and Shanghai.

THE *Tuting*, from the river ports, had fresh N.E. winds and rainy weather throughout.

THE *Hsinfung*, from Ningpo, reports moderate N.W. winds and cloudy weather throughout. The *Pekin* experienced fresh N.E. winds and thick rainy weather all through the passage.

The silk shipped per *City of Rio de Janeiro* on the 10th of January arrived at New York on the 10th inst.

THE steamer *Flachat*, formerly the *Akaba*, belonging to the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, was a vessel of 1,495 tons net and 250 horse-power, built and engined at Stockton in 1880.

THE *Lienshing* on her last passage across from Nagasaki encountered a tremendous sea, which the captain describes as a sort of tidal wave, and which created havoc on board the ship. After leaving Nagasaki fine weather was experienced until the night of the 9th inst., when a strong N.W. breeze, with correspondingly heavy sea sprang up. At 5 a.m. on the following morning she shipped a tremendous sea forward, which carried away the bridge, and telegraph, stove in the fore part of the wheel-house, chartroom and saloon, and damaged the compass and wheel. The chief officer, Mr. McClure, was on watch at the time and the sea swept him from the bridge against the funnel, seriously injuring him about the body. The quartermaster who was at the wheel was also badly hurt. The ship was stopped at once and the hand steering-gear aft shipped, and after being hove-to for some time she was put on her course again and arrived at Shanghai without further mishap. On arrival the chief officer was removed to the hospital, where his injuries, which though serious were fortunately found to be not as bad as was at first feared, were attended to.

THE *Shengking*, from Chefoo, reports moderate to fresh N.E. winds, with dull, overcast weather and drizzly rain. The wind fell light approaching the Yangtze bank, with thick fog. The fog cleared up off the Tungsha lightship, and from thence inwards she had light winds and fine weather.

ALL the steamers arriving here on Wednesday report more or less detention by fog. Several vessels were compelled to remain at anchor at Woosung from Monday morning until daylight on Wednesday.

We received on Monday from the Statistical Department of the Inspectorate-General of Customs another yellow book of 30 pages, with plates and charts, being *Medical Reports for the half-year ended 31st March, 1897*. The reports comprised in it are by Dr. J. J. Matignon from Peking (in French); Dr. C. C. de Burgh Daly from Newchwang; Dr. E. W. von Tuzelmann from Chefoo; Dr. W.H. Park from Soochow; Dr. Henry Layng from Swatow; Dr. B. Stewart Ringer from Canton; and Dr. A. Sharp Deane from Pakhoi.

We have received Vol. I, No. 1, of Messrs. Hoijman and Schuurman's *Holland Abroad*, published monthly at Amsterdam in a red, white, and blue cover. It is established for the guidance of foreign buyers or importers and is sent abroad free of any charge to any firm wishing to develop business relations with Holland. The Editor is open to give information of all kinds about Holland, free of any cost, and the publishers will take no remuneration in any shape. The present issue contains very readable illustrated articles on "Holland as it is," "Amsterdam and Ymuiden," etc.

We have received the January issue of the *Corean Repository*, published at the Trilingual Press, Seoul.

The Report for 1897 of the Nippon Sea and Land Insurance Co., of Osaka, which has been sent us by the agents here, Messrs. Tata & Co., shows a balance to the credit of profit and loss account of 199,844 yen, while the Reserve Fund amounts to 117,500 yen. The gross premia received for the year were 1,945,710 yen.

We have received from Messrs. Reuter, Brockelmann & Co., the agents here, a handsome and convenient desk calendar, issued by the Aachen and Munich Fire Insurance Co., of Aix-la-Chapelle.

THE energetic Coast Inspector, Capt. A. M. Bisbee, issued on Wednesday a Notice to

Mariners, No. 318, having reference to the Buoyage of Hainan Strait, with directions for entering the South Channel from the eastward.

WHAT is this new trouble that has come upon us? It is a pestilent puzzle sent round by Messrs. Caldbeck, Macgregor & Co., agents of the Canadian Club whisky of Hiram Walker & Co., which—the puzzle, not always the whisky—is now occupying the after-dinner hours in many households. Sporting men will enjoy the calendar for 1898 issued by Messrs. Robertson, Sanderson & Co., Ltd., of Leith, purveyors of Scotch whisky, of whom Messrs. J. W. Gande & Co. are the Shanghai agents, for it contains a vigorous chromo-lithograph of a steeplechase in the old country.

THE following is the text of the Notice to Mariners just issued from the Coast Inspector's office:—

Notice is hereby given that the Hainan Head Bank Buoy has been shifted about 2 cables to the south-westward of its former position, on account of the extension of the bank in that direction; and that it is now moored in 35 feet at low water of spring tides, with the summit of Hainan Bluff bearing about S. 65° W., magnetic, and distant about 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ cables. With the Hainan Head Bank Buoy in the position above described, and the Riversdale Rock and the Hainan Reef Buoy in their advertised positions, vessels entering the South channel from the eastward should pass, say, 2 cables N.E. of the Riversdale Rock Buoy, and then steer to pass, say, 1 cable S.W. of the Hainan Head Bank Buoy, taking care to guard against being set towards the shore, and remembering that it is safe to borrow towards the banks on the starboard hand, of which the lead, which should be kept going, will give warning, while on the other side the bottom is rocky and uneven and the lead gives no warning. The Hainan Reef Buoy may be rounded at a distance of 1 cable or more at discretion.

In the December issue of the *Corean Repository*, "X." tells of the Corean "reversed Santa Claus," which takes the form of a malignant cat, which visits every household on the last night of the year trying to tread into any shoe he can find; if he is successful, the owner of the shoe is certain to die or come to grief during the ensuing year. Accordingly, on the last night of the year the Coreans lock up every shoe in the house, whether in wear or discarded, in a box, so that the spirit cat may not get them. "X." adds:—

"The Coreans have learned how to exorcise the cat and have a specific remedy for him—an effectual cat-antidote, so to speak.

"If any of the readers of the *Repository*, who are so fortunate as to be in Corea on the last night of a Corean year, will go out into the streets during twilight, he will detect among the many vile smells which, as usual, assail his nostrils, a new, peculiar, and distinct stink. It is the odour of burning human hair. The Corean caefully saves up during the year every stray strand of hair from the pates of each member, young and old, of the household, and as all have long and luxuriant locks the hair crop for the year is by no means small; it she burns at twilight on this night in the street in front of his gate or door, it being well known that the spirit cat cannot endure the scent of burning human hair and will give any house in front of which a liberal supply of hair has been burned a wide berth.

"And I am assured on good authority, that there is no well authenticated case where this cat has been seen in any house thus protected by these pungent fumes."

THE Report of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., for the second half of 1897 shows a balance available for appropriation of \$356,726. The Directors propose to distribute a dividend and bonus

of 12 per cent, to give a bonus of \$20,000 to contributing shareholders, to write off \$41,942 from the Kowloon and Cosmopolitan Docks, and to carry forward \$107,285.

THE master of the *laoda* whose case we referred to on Monday last writes us that through the energetic interference of his Consul the *laoda* was released on Saturday. The thumbscrews were not actually applied to him, but a big stick was, with the view of persuading him to give the detectives \$10, on receipt of which they offered to release him. His main objection now that he is released is to be tried in private by Chinese detectives in a teashop. The new Captain-Superintendent undoubtedly has his work cut out for him, and we trust that the whole of the foreign part of our Municipal police will give him their whole-hearted assistance in introducing the necessary reforms into the force.

At the Mixed Court on Monday a man who had been in the service of a foreigner as a "boy," was charged with intimidating servants in the employ of his former master. It appeared that he left without giving notice and had since endeavoured by means of threats to prevent others from taking his place, causing considerable inconvenience to his employer. He was sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment.

THE case of the detectives charged with torturing prisoners was again before the Mixed Court on Monday, and was remanded, to give the police an opportunity of arresting the man who escaped.

THE detective who escaped from custody on the way from the Mixed Court to the police station, was arrested late on Tuesday night. He was living in a house in the Woochang Road, and the occupier of the premises, tempted by the reward offered, went to the Central Police Station and gave information as to his whereabouts. Two foreign detectives were sent to the house and the man was arrested without any difficulty. The case of torturing prisoners came on again at the Mixed Court on Wednesday afternoon and was remanded until Monday without any further evidence being taken.

A SERIOUS case of malicious damage was before the Mixed Court on Tuesday afternoon. A Chinese engineer formerly employed at the Soy Chee Cotton Mill and now engaged at the Yah Loong mill, was charged with doing wilful damage to the machinery at the former mill. It appears that pieces of iron had been introduced into the working parts of the machinery and had done such damage as to necessitate the stoppage of work in the mill for some days. In fact, work has not yet been resumed, though the directors hope that they may be able to commence on Saturday next. The prisoner was remanded until Thursday afternoon. Three more men have been arrested in connection with the case and will be charged in company with the former prisoner on Thursday.

THE case of the men who are charged with damaging the machinery at the Soy Chee Cotton Mill was again before the Mixed Court on Thursday and was further remanded.

THE four principal prizes in the Manila Lottery this month have fallen to Nos. 1,568; 9,891; 24,905; and 3,062.

THE police used to be instructed not to allow beggars in the foreign Settlements, but they have become very lax in enforcing this of late, and really it is mistaken kindness when such a ghastly sight is allowed in a frequented thoroughfare as the handless beggar who was allowed to exhibit his maimed stump at the corner of the Ningpo and Szechuen Roads on Tuesday afternoon. It was a sight at the recollection of which ladies were shuddering for hours afterwards.

WE have received the *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 5th inst.—A street by the south wall of the Tientsin native city

is now lighted by electricity, supplied from a new steam flour mill.—Dr. Martin writes an interesting letter, under the title "Educational Reform," on the decree of the Emperor putting practical science on a par with *belles lettres* in the distribution of honours and offices.

WE have received Hongkong papers to the 16th inst.—A very important share-broking case, *Gorham v. Benjamin, Kelly, and Potts*, was opened in Hongkong before the Chief Justice and a special jury, consisting of Messrs. Siebs, Kirch, J. Andrew, G. C. Anderson, J. Thurburn, H. N. Mody, and W. Poate, on the 7th. Messrs. Francis and Slade appeared for the plaintiff, and Messrs. Drummond and Pollock for the defendants. Mr. Gorham's claim is that the defendants sold shares for him at a higher price than that at which they accounted to him, and he asked for a full account of all his transactions with the defendants—amounting to a turnover of about a million dollars—between the 1st of April, 1896, and the middle of March, 1897. The defendants, without admitting any legal liability, brought into Court \$500. The case was continued on the 8th, 9th, and 10th inst.—H.M.S. *Orlando* is to remain at Singapore until the *Deutschland* arrives, Admiral Cyprian Bridge going home by the English mail.—Admiral Seymour left for the North in the *Alacrity* on the 8th.—In the action for libel at Bangkok for \$10,000, brought by Dr. Nightingale, Medical Officer to the Local Government, against the *Bangkok Times*, the verdict of a majority of the jury for the defendant was accepted by both parties.—The Sultan of Sulu with 63 followers arrived at Singapore on the 3rd inst. en route to China.—It was understood that Prince Henry was to land at Colombo as Admiral, not as Prince.—The seven-year old only son of Mr. J. Barry of the Ordnance Department, Hongkong, was playing about the staircase of the house at 11A, Praya East, when he fell a distance of thirty feet. He was taken to the hospital with a fractured skull and died the next day.—A Rangoon paper says that the plague is devastating parts of Eastern Yunnan.—A small fire took place on the premises of the Eastern Clock Manufacturing Co., Hongkong, on the 11th.—Two deserting marines have been drowned at Colombo while attempting to swim ashore from the U.S. cruiser *Raleigh*.—The N.Y.K. new steamer *Bingo Maru*, 5,826 tons, built by Harland & Wolff, arrived at Hongkong from home on the 9th.—Chief Justice Carrington's judgment in the Synagogue case, the gist of which, received by wire, we have published, occupies eight columns in the *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 14th, 15th, and 16th inst., and was then not complete.—In the cricket match, the Club v. Garrison, played last week, the latter made 47 and 279, and the former 290 and 37 for 3 wickets, winning by 7 wickets.—The *Jean Bart* arrived at Saigon on the 5th, and was to leave shortly for China.—We have already mentioned the suicide of Captain White. It appears that while on his way down from here to Hongkong in the *Darmstadt*, he suddenly, in view of a number of passengers, jumped overboard from the rail aft, and though the steamer was stopped and a boat lowered, he could not be found.—In consequence of its recent failures, the Pasteur Institute at Saigon is to be reorganised.—The *Pouan* has been repaired and replaced on the Canton line.—The *Hongkong Telegraph* says that the Synagogue case has cost the contestants over \$50,000.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* says that Sir Nicholas Hannen was received in audience by H.M. the King of Siam on the 3rd inst. A State banquet was given on the following evening at the Palace. The only Europeans present were the four Ministers, Messrs. Barrett, Seldeneck,

Inagaki, and Greville, and Mrs. Greville; Sir N. Hannen and Lady Hannen, Miss Hannen, and M. and Mme. Rolin-Jacquemys.

THE *China Mail* says:—Ex-Congressman Edward H. Conger, of Michigan, U.S. Minister to Brazil, has exchanged posts with Charles Page Bryan, of Illinois, Minister to China. A Washington dispatch, dated 12th Jan., says:—There was considerable objection to Bryan's nomination on the ground that he had no diplomatic experience and was not equipped for so important a place as that of Minister to China is likely to be during the present Administration in view of the European scramble for possession in China. Mr. Conger was Minister to Brazil during the Harrison Administration, and was regarded as one of the strongest of our foreign representatives. The President this afternoon sent the necessary renominations to the Senate. It is believed that there will be no objections to the confirmation of either gentleman.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* tells us that the *Comercio* publishes the following statement of the lines the respective Insurance Companies had on the property destroyed in the recent fire at Manila:—

Union	\$200,000
Magdeburg	60,000
Royal	55,000
Northern	55,000
North British	55,000
London Assurance	29,000
Manchester	58,000
Hongkong Fire	24,000
Empress	8,000
Aachen and Munich	50,000
China Fire	45,000
Royal Exchange	35,000
Baloise	44,000
Imperial	39,000
Commercial Union	39,000
South British	6,000
London and Lancashire	35,000
Atlas	18,000
Hamburg Bremen	15,000
Netherlands	18,000
Total	\$889,000

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* says:—A gentleman who was recently in Canton in connection with the celebration of the marriage of a son of Mr. Li Sing, merchant, Hongkong, writes stating that a most daring armed attack took place in the twelfth ward of Canton on the 11th inst. It should be first mentioned that about six hundred guests, including about two hundred mandarins, were present at the wedding celebration, which lasted four days, and as a precaution eighteen braves armed with carbines and revolvers were stationed at the entrance to the mansion where the festivities were held, while a police station is situated not fifty yards away. Yet, in spite of these precautions, there was an armed attack in the immediate neighbourhood and only ten houses away. Three robbers entered a family house, gagged the inmates, and took away \$2,000 worth of money, jewellery, and clothing. The inmates were powerless to give an alarm and when the robbers had got all they could carry away they decamped by the back entrance. When the marriage guests heard of the robbery they did all they could to capture the thieves by directing the pursuit, but unfortunately no arrests were made. Armed attacks in Canton city are of almost daily occurrence just now. On the morning of the 11th inst. a mandarin was stopped in his chair and a scent bottle, wrapped in a piece of paper, presented at his head. The mandarin was very frightened and thought the scent bottle was a revolver, and so he submitted to being stripped of his official robes and some money.

This last incident reminds us of a story the Rev. Mr. Lobscheid used to tell of how he once routed a gang of robbers by

presenting at them the mouth of a soda-water bottle, the neck of which was concealed in the sleeve of his coat.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 12th says:—

The future movements of H.M.S. *Edgar* are still quite unknown in naval circles. If events in the Far East had been more promising the *Edgar* would have been almost home by this time, but her departure was necessarily delayed and it is not at all certain where she will go to next; perhaps she will go North, perhaps to England. The *Edgar* sailors who threw away their curios in the Queen's Road on Saturday night were doubtless labouring under a misapprehension, as orders were given for special space to be prepared on the *Tamar* for the reception of all curios. It is stated in official circles that the curios were ordered out of the ship so as to facilitate thorough cleansing of the vessel. If she was going straight home such a course would not have been adopted, but as there is a possibility of the ship being detained in Eastern waters for some considerable time it was thought inadvisable to allow a large quantity of lumber on board.

Admiral Buller will go to England by the English mail leaving on the 19th inst. The Admiral is at present in Shanghai, where he arrived in the *Pique* on the 6th February, and it may be taken for granted that if he can, he will arrive in Hongkong in time to see one or two days' racing. We know that Admiral Buller has a kindly regard for Hongkong, and his many friends and admirers will be glad if his duties permit of his getting down here for the three days of the races. We regret, however, to learn from a Shanghai contemporary that His Excellency is suffering from a bronchial affection.

We have received Corea and Japan papers with dates from Seoul to the 5th, Tokio the 12th, Yokohama the 14th, Kobe the 16th, and Nagasaki the 18th inst.—The battleship *Yashima* has been appointed flagship of the Japanese standing squadron.—A motor carriage, propelled by petroleum, has made its appearance in Tokio.—Major-General Baron Yamakawa died on the 4th of consumption, at the age of 54.—Mr. John Morrison, formerly a manager in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and latterly a bill and bullion broker at Kobe, died there on the 9th at the age of sixty.—A block of four foreign-built houses in Sakai-machi, Kobe, was burnt down on the night of the 8th. The foreign tenants were insured, but not the owner of the houses.—A steamer supposed to be Japanese was reported ashore on Saratoga Spit on the 8th.—The prospectus of the Japan Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., has been issued, with a capital of 1,000,000 yen in 10,000 shares of 100 yen each, half to be paid up.—The U.S.S. *Concord* arrived at Yokohama on the 9th, and is to relieve the *Boston* at Chemulpo.—The men-of-war in Nagasaki on the 11th were two Russian gunboats and a Japanese cruiser.—A Seoul policeman has been dismissed for keeping a *mutang* in his home, and secretly hiring her out in devil-worship.—The newly appointed Korean Foreign Minister has already resigned once unavailingly.—The *Japan Times* criticises severely the *Spectator's* recent article on an Anglo-Japanese alliance, which the *Japan Times* calls "utterly irrelevant and pusillanimous."—A headman of Shiga having been sentenced to five years' major confinement for stealing 30,000 yen worth of Government bonds from the Local Office, the Governor discovered the bonds in some of the banks. He brought and won an action for their recovery, and the banks have appealed to a higher Court.—It was the *Bankoku Maru*, coal-laden, that was ashore on Saratoga Spit. She got off after lightening.—Thieves stole a

lighter with 55 bales of American cotton in it at Kobe on the 4th. Detectives recovered the spoil but all the thieves got away but one.—A very successful subscription ball was given at Yokohama on the 10th in aid of the funds of the General Hospital.—The British steamer *Cam* from New York, kerosene-laden, grounded in Yokohama Bay on the 8th, but got off after lightening.—The trains were running again as usual on the Tokaido railway on the 12th.—A very successful Masonic ball was given at Kobe on the 11th.—A fire broke out in Kaigan-dori, Kobe, on the 16th in the premises occupied by Messrs. Nickel & Co., Mr. Clifford Wilkinson, and a Japanese firm. The fire brigades succeeded in saving the surrounding buildings.—There were seven British men-of-war and one Russian gunboat in Nagasaki harbour on the 18th.

The *Kobe Chronicle* quotes the following telegrams from Japanese papers:—

Taipei, 9th February.

About 8.30 p.m. yesterday a body of about 100 rebels made a raid on the Shin-chiku (Tekcham) Revenue Office and carried away all the money in the office. An official and a policeman were killed in the encounter that took place.

Tokio, 9th February.

About 3.30 p.m. yesterday a landslip occurred on the Tokaido railway near the tunnel between Oyama and Yamakita, where two big rocks, about 7 and 3 *tsubo* in size respectively, fell on the line, together with a large quantity of earth, blocking it completely. It is expected that traffic will be resumed to-morrow. A passenger who has arrived here from the place where the accident occurred states that the cold is intense, and the hardships of the unfortunate passengers are extreme.

[H.I.H. Prince Marshal Komatsu was in the train that came up after the accident, and walked the section that was blocked, re-entering a train waiting on the other side of the obstruction and proceeding thence to Tokio. The 12.33 p.m. train was stopped at Yamakita, and the passengers and mails forwarded from Shizuoka at 7.45 p.m.]

Peking, 11th February.

The payment of the balance of the Chinese indemnity to Japan in a lump sum has become quite hopeless.

Tokio, 12th February.

A telegram has been received by the Yokohama Specie Bank, under date of the 10th inst., stating that the Chinese Government will raise a domestic loan of 100 million taels, bearing interest at 5 per cent. This being of the nature of a Government levy, its success is considered doubtful. The loan will be chiefly raised from among the officials.

[The Japanese Government has received a telegram stating that, owing to the opposition of the officials, the loan has been abandoned.—Ed. K.C.]

14th February.

In reference to the Reuter's dispatch stating that Japan has informed the Chinese Government that she could not permit the payment of the next instalment of the indemnity to be postponed, the authorities concerned deny that any such intimation has been conveyed to China.

15th February.

The economical position of Japan at present scarcely justifies the Government acceding to any postponement of payment as regards the next instalment of the Chinese indemnity. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Minister at Peking and London advise that the request of China to postpone the payment should be acceded to with a view to bringing about a reconciliation between China and Japan. It is, however, doubtful whether the economical policy of the Finance Department will permit such a course to be taken.

THE *Kobe Chronicle* says:—

Commenting in its characteristic fashion on Marquis Ito, the *Yorodu* rather aptly

compares Japan to "a huge wooden junk fitted with a modern constitutional engine." "On it must move," says the *Yorodzu*, "but the ship is not very seaworthy yet; and the unfortunate man who is called upon to command it has indeed a very hard time. He that has heart to pray, let him pray for Marquis Ito."

The *Yokohama Eastern World* of the 5th inst. says:—

To-morrow the Right Rev. Bishop Awdry, as we learn from an advertisement, will preach at Christ Church "to the heathen in Yokohama." He evidently considers it labour lost to preach to the Christians in Yokohama. There ought to be a full house. We would respond to the invitation ourselves but for the fact that we have to spend the Sunday in sifting a pile of documents in a law case. But we shall be there in the spirit.

The *Seoul Independent* gives a statement of the receipts of the Imperial Korean Telegraph Service for 1897. The figures, it says, are very encouraging, considering that five stations out of nine only worked for a few months. There are other disadvantages too, such as that the clerks are constantly changed as new Ministers come into office, and the out-stations are placed under the control of the local magistrates. It says:—

Whenever a new Minister is appointed he generally dismisses the clerks of the different bureaux in order to make room for his poor relations and friends. This may work well in those bureaux where nothing is done except drawing the salaries at the end of each month, but in a place like a telegraph office skilled labour is required. Of course, this necessity does not appeal to the Minister's idea and he appoints his *protégés* as telegraph operators, who cannot distinguish a telegraph instrument from a telephone. The majority of them do not even know their own alphabet, much less foreign letters. With such absolutely no-accounts in the office the efficiency of the service is hard to maintain however diligent and capable the manager may be.

Again the out-stations are controlled by the local magistrates who have no idea whatsoever of managing a telegraph office, therefore it is almost impossible to observe regularity, promptness, and accuracy in the service by the central office in Seoul.

The receipts for 1897 were as follows:—

OFFICE.	TIMES OF WORKING.	AMOUNT.
Seoul	one year	\$5,488.97
Songdo	" "	920.30
Pyongyang	" "	2,397.18
Euiju	" "	1,520.16
Chemulpo	from 21st of Mar. '96.	2,490.32
Wonsan	" 1st of June '97.	795.14
Chinnampo	" 25th of Nov. '97.	185.11
Kongju	" 26th of Nov. '97.	36.71
Chunju	" 7th of Dec. '97.	106.12

Total...\$13,940.01

The *Straits Times* has published a number of interviews with Straits merchants in London on the proposed currency change, upon which "The Moralist" comments as follows:—"That was a good solid three columns, Mr. Editor, that you supplied, the other day, of interview with Straits merchants in London on the subject of Straits currency. The drift of tendency was not, I think, calculated very much to encourage the currency reformers. These gentlemen in London seem to say, in substance: 'Well, it really does not matter to us at what price the dollar is. We will take mighty good care to see that, in some shape or other, we cover ourselves.' The exception to that view was Mr. S. R. Carr, who represents John Little & Company, but of course, the interests that John Little & Co. represent are not quite the same as those of the other merchants. At all events, Mr. Editor, you did a service in putting the views of the London Seniors of the Singapore mercantile houses so clearly before the public of the Straits." The correspondent in his introduction to the in-

terviews says:—Very pleasant it was to meet the gentlemen who, twenty or, maybe, thirty years ago, helped to build up the prosperity of the Settlements, did nobly on seventy or eighty dollars a month, and would have looked with horror on the modern indulgences of the mercantile assistant. Indeed, one gentleman, the head of a great Straits firm, told me, with a twinkle in his eye, of the trouble that he got into when it was found that he had incurred debts to the extent of 150 dollars with *tukan wong*. The young men in those days usually shared a gharry—as a sort of luxury—when they went home in the evening. Many a curious reminiscence did I hear during my calls, and much that threw into vivid contrast the conditions of life in the Straits a quarter of a century ago and now. However, this by the way. I give below the gist of the conversations that I had in the course of the morning, and, though they would bear a good deal of elaboration, they will, I think, indicate sufficiently the rather diverse views that are held. It will be observed, however, that there is absolute unanimity on the desirability of a fixity of exchange being established. The doubts only arise when we enter into the thorny path of detail. Taking the opinions expressed in the bulk, it seems to be generally felt by the merchants in London, that the matter is not yet sufficiently ripe for the expression of any final views, and that much newspaper and other threshing out has to be done before a definite platform can be established. In some quarters, it will be seen, there is a good deal of dubiousness felt as to the attitude of the Government in the matter, and the practicability of inducing their essential assistance.

The great mystery about Indo-China, and one which must ever be insoluble, is the story of the lost race and the vanished civilisation of that strange country. The mighty walls of Angkor-Wat, rising in the midst of sparsely populated jungles, remain as the memorial of a great empire which has utterly disappeared and is altogether lost to history. No one will ever know who planned this gigantic temple, or what tyrant hounded on his myriads of people to build up those immense blocks of stone and cover them with the most elaborate of sculptures. Angkor-Wat is one of the most astonishing monuments in the world, and this forgotten temple was built so as to endure as long as the earth itself, were it not for the irresistibly destructive effect of plant life on the strongest walls that man can raise. Only a highly civilised and very wealthy people could have erected Angkor-Wat—a very different race to the Annamite of modern days. The whole nation has disappeared as utterly as the busy myriads who once populated the wastes and solitudes of Memphis.—*Singapore Free Press*.

The following items of shipping intelligence appear in copies of the *Times* received by the last German mail:—Liverpool, on the 7th of January.—*Ixion*, s., Clyde for China, is at Algiers repairing steering gear. Gibraltar, on the 8th of January.—*Antenor*, s., Yokohama for London, passed this morning and signalled—"Broke two blades of propeller yesterday."

The following notes are from the *London and China Express* of the 14th ult.:—

The French cruiser *Pascal* sailed from Toulon on 2nd inst., for the Far East.

The Russian cruiser *Rossia*, with the Grand Duke Cyril on board, entered the Suez Canal on the 12th inst., en route for China.

The following appointment has been made at the Admiralty:—Com. J. A. Tukey, to the *Centurion*, to date the 1st of March.

The second class cruiser *Duguay Trouin*, flagship of the French Pacific Squadron, has received orders to proceed to Chinese waters.

The *Esercito* states that an agreement has been arrived at between the Italian Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Marine

for the despatch to China of one or two warships.

The Silver market has gradually hardened since we last wrote, owing to special orders. Yesterday there was considerable inquiry for the Straits, and the price of bars improved $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 26 11-16d. In Mexican dollars there is nothing fresh to report.

The Tea market has been closely occupied with the large supplies that have passed the auctions, of all kinds over 80,000 packages. Indian growth formed the bulk of the offerings and sold on the whole at steady prices; indeed there is no margin for any material drop as the range of prices current are on a moderate standard. Quality is well represented as regards Indian growth, but there is room for improvement in Ceylon. China Tea is dwindling away, and little but common kinds offering.

The Deutsch-Asiatische Bank has already made arrangements for establishing a branch at Kiaochow, and it is understood that other banks are giving the matter very careful consideration with a view to doing the same thing themselves. There is no doubt if they also go there that the new German station will for some time be very over-banked.

An Odessa correspondent states that the Volunteer Fleet steamers leaving that port for the Far East in the early spring will have guns stowed away in readiness for mounting fore and aft, in case the situation in Eastern waters should necessitate conversion into armed cruisers. All the vessels of the Volunteer Fleet are fitted for the mounting of two heavy guns.

The reopening of the Hawaiian annexation discussion in the Senate finds both sides professedly confident of victory. There is no doubt that there has been a slight change of sentiment in favour of annexation—how much cannot be said. The President is undoubtedly using his influence to secure annexation, seeming to have that more at heart than currency reform.

The Dreyfus case is far from being finished, and several sensational developments are likely to follow the acquittal of Major Esterhazy. M. Mathieu Dreyfus is to be prosecuted for attempting to corrupt Colonel Sandherr, who was charged with the original investigation, and also for defamation by Major Esterhazy. Colonel Picquart is also to be tried by court martial for illicit proceedings in searching for material to use against Major Esterhazy. Two young lawyers, who quarrelled violently about Dreyfus at the Palais de Justice have arranged to fight a duel. M. Zola is preparing a novel on the case of the ex-captain. Finally, the agitation continues to rage. New pamphlets are being sold in the streets, as well as a large fly-leaf containing facsimiles of the *borderau* and of Major Esterhazy's handwriting.

To attempt to analyse the question of the loan to China would probably mean only that we should have to negative the rumours and statements that have been made public during the week. Neither the public nor the Press has retracted any of the approving assertions put forward to encourage the British Government to either make or guarantee the projected loan. The position really, however, centres in Peking and not in London, despite the fact that in all probability the matter was subject of discussion at the Cabinet Council held on the 8th inst. The position now is that the Chinese Government has ceased negotiating for the moment for a Russian guaranteed loan and—well it has done nothing else, and pursues its usual dilatory methods.

A correspondent writes to a contemporary:—I think it is by no means improbable that at the next meeting of the P. and O.S.N. Company we may hear a statement from Sir Thomas Sutherland on the subject of the route to the East, with more particular reference to the Great Siberian

Railway, which will bring Japan within fourteen or fifteen days of London, as against twenty-eight days *via* Canada or thirty-one days *via* the Suez Canal. Quite recently it has been urged in political and commercial circles that either pressure must be brought to bear upon the P. and O. Company to induce it to occupy less time in covering the sea route to Bombay or Colombo, or the question of a land railway to India must be seriously tackled, making provision for through traffic as far as Calcutta or Madras, especially for Australia-bound passengers. Indirectly this bears upon the Far Eastern question. It is pointed out that while Russia, by means of the Trans-Caspian and Trans-Siberian Railways, has been opening up and linking the whole of the vast continent of Asia with her European dominions, we have ourselves been doing nothing for the southern and western parts of the continent; and it is urged that these operations would properly lie within our sphere of activity. No objection on political grounds is conceived to the carrying out of such a project through quasi-British territory. The need of it is the more emphasised by the fact that if fast steamers are provided between the Pacific terminus and the Australian ports, the new Siberian route, so far as mails and passengers to Australia are concerned, will save ten clear days of travelling. I am inclined to think, therefore, that the P. and O. directors have the matter still under consideration, and that at the next meeting of the P. and O. Company we may expect an announcement of no little interest and importance.

The Daily Graphic says:—

The zealous folk who imagine that the empire of China is about to fall into pieces, are imploring our Government to seize something at once solid and celestial for Britain. Should these counsels prevail, we wish to prefer the claims of Shanghai on the following incontestable grounds. Shanghai, with a population of 355,000, has only two music teachers! So at least we are assured by an exceptionally well-informed American contemporary, which very properly observes that such an item of information deserves the widest possible publicity. Our musical academies are turning out pianists in such profusion that, as it has been cynically said, they eke out a precarious existence by attending each other's recitals. For these, as well as for the several hundred "favourite pupils" of Liszt, Shanghai ought to prove a splendid field for unappreciated endeavour.

The German Emperor, says the *Westminster Gazette*, has propounded a pretty little riddle for his faithful subjects. Underneath the portrait of his Imperial self which he has given to Bishop Anzer he has written one Latin word—*Tamen* ("Yet"). He has puzzled people considerably before by writing laconic enigmas under other of the many gospel portraits of himself, but the wildest guesses are abroad from one end of Germany to the other as to what this latest mysterious word-puzzle means. The *Neue Freie Presse* comes to the rescue with an ingenious theory in explanation. It points out that there is obviously a connection between the expedition to China and the Kaiser's programme for the increase of his navy. "No one can possibly say," declares the *Freie Presse*, "that the East Asiatic expedition was undertaken to give an illustration of the necessity for an increase in the navy, but one may, perhaps, say that the opposition against the increase may be cut short when it is shown that the sea power of Germany needs a strengthening that can only be given by an increase of the German Fleet." In the light of this the mysterious word *Tamen* is made plain. It gives a headline to the Kiel speech, and a hint to the Centre Party that they had better withdraw their opposition to the naval pro-

gramme, for the Emperor will get his ships now, in spite of the Catholic opposition, and, it might be added, by means of their unfortunate missionaries.

The home papers no doubt find the Imperial Speeches at Kiel an amusing subject, but they are making a good deal too much of them, considering that they were after dinner deliverances, probably never intended by their speakers to be taken seriously. The *New York Nation* is generally cool-headed enough, but it says in its issue of the 6th ult.:—

Some seventy German editors are now in jail for *lese-majesté*, and they will be welcoming more of their comrades as soon as the Emperor gets time to read the "press clippings" on the royal speeches at Kiel. The German newspapers are loyal, and they are cautious, but "the gospel of your Majesty's hallowed person" was too much for them. Some of the other exuberances and mediaevalisms of the speeches are to be accounted for by the high-flown official dialect, which in German is something as different from English as English is from Chinese. But that "gospel!" "Only one Gospel is preached to us Christians," said the Conservative *Kreuz-Zeitung*. The Agrarian organ observes that "It is not permissible to speak of the royal person as 'hallowed.'" "There is only one hallowed person on earth—the Pope," declared the Catholic *Germania*. The loyal *Tageblatt* gave up the offensive phrase as one "which for the present is beyond our humble powers of comprehension;" while the Socialist *Vorwärts* sardonically invited the Cardinals and Archbishops to enlighten the public about the new gospel. One paper even ventures to challenge William's historical knowledge, and to deny that the Hanseatic League decayed, as he alleged, for "lack of imperial protection." This is rank blasphemy, and the only proper answer to it is a good term of imprisonment. There is nothing like solitary confinement on a bread-and-water diet to inculcate proper ideas about hallowed Majesty.

Discussing the German occupation of Kiaochow Bay, *Transport* says in its "Money and Finance" article:—

The question that mostly concerns this country is, will Germany erect a tariff wall against other Powers in her leasehold ground? There is, of course, one other question: Is the Chinese Empire to be put in the melting pot, and if so, are we to allow our three great rivals, Russia, Germany, and France, to have a free hand? The British fleet is said to be watching the movements of Russia at Port Arthur. This is good so far as it goes, but will it prevent the dismemberment of China? What we want is trade—not territory—but should Chinese ports pass into the hands of protectionist European countries, our trade avenues will probably be closed. It is interesting to know that negotiations are in progress in London for a Chinese loan guaranteed by the British Government. There can be no doubt that any assistance rendered by the Government to Chinese finance would be sound policy and in the best interest of trade. The practical question is, of course, the guarantee, which I cannot but think would be a masterly stroke, for it would give us an unassailable position in dictating China's commercial policy, without in any way impairing the sovereign rights of the Chinese Government. Sir Robert Hart's administration of the maritime customs of China has been a great success, and it is suggested that the sphere of his office might be extended to the satisfaction of new creditors, and to the benefit of Great Britain. America, which has commercial interests in China, is watching developments very closely, and Japan is eager for an alliance with Great Britain; but this country has never yet allied herself with an Oriental nation. Count Ito, the distinguished statesman, who was at the

head of affairs during the war with China, is once more in power with a new Cabinet. His policy is likely to be vigorous in the present crisis.

Transport is despairing at last of the Manchester Ship Canal. It says in its issue of the 31st of December:—

The whole history of the undertaking has been nothing but a succession of blunders. The fact is nobody could make a thing pay which was notoriously bankrupt to start with. The shareholders know well enough—have known well enough for long—that there is not the smallest likelihood of their ever receiving a return on their investment. The eight millions of money subscribed by the original ordinary shareholders might as well have been thrown into the gutter as into this great ditch. Newspaper correspondents are groping about for the causes of failure. One says it is the apathy of the Manchester merchants; another that it is a question of dock dues, tolls, and traffic rates; but the fact is the Canal was hopeless at the beginning, is hopeless now, and will remain hopeless to the end of the chapter. It is idle to talk about the Canal having "enemies," or about the management being directly responsible for the lack of adequate traffic. The management have had a millstone on their necks throughout, and no management in the world will do better.

Writing on "Shipbuilding in 1897," *Transport* thus summarises the work of the year:—

Messrs Harland and Wolff, of Belfast, are again at the top of the private yards with a total of 84,240 tons, which is 2,924 tons better than last year. They are followed by Messrs. C. S. Swan and Hunter, of Wallsend, who have turned out 48,570 tons. A West Hartlepool firm, Messrs. W. Gray and Co., takes the third place with a tonnage of 47,462. Scotland is represented by Messrs. Russell and Co., of Port-Glasgow, with 42,912 tons, who are closely pursued by the Palmer Shipbuilding Company, of Jarrow, whose product amounts to 40,319 tons. Last year, in the order named, the positions were held by Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Sir W. G. Armstrong & Co., W. Gray & Co., C. Connell & Co., and Ropner and Son. Other firms who have done well this year are Messrs. J. L. Thompson and Sons, Sunderland, 33,176 tons; Messrs. W. Doxford and Sons, Sunderland, 30,674 tons; Messrs. Short Brothers, Sunderland, 30,560 tons; Sir Raylton Dixon & Co., Stockton, 30,420 tons; Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Tyne, 29,242 tons. Foreign builders, although their output is much in advance of 1896, are still a long way behind in the race with their British rivals.

The largest record is again held by the Flensburg yard in Germany, 30,569 tons, whose orders have been divided between Hamburg and Copenhagen. The Vulcan Shipbuilding Company, Stettin, are a good second with 25,899 tons. This firm built the *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*. The Rostock yard produced 10,303 tons; Howaltswerke, Kiel, 9,906 tons; and a Hamburg firm, 9,584 tons. Laporte and Co., of Rouen, are a long pace ahead of any other French shipbuilders with a tonnage for barques of 24,700. Burmeister, Wain and Co., of Copenhagen, sent out four vessels aggregating 9,507 tons.

The United States, aided by the Legislature, make a creditable appearance. The Chicago Shipbuilding Company, with three saloon steamers and a couple of tow barges, can show a tonnage of 15,051. Messrs. Cramp and Son, of Philadelphia, have only constructed two ships, but one of them, the *Itawa*, a battleship for the United States Navy, was of 11,300 tons. Altogether their total is 13,300 tons. The Globe Ironworks Company, Cleveland, contributed 9,962 tons. The Cleveland Shipbuilding Company turned out 8,224 tons, and Messrs. F. W. Wheeler and Co., West Bay City, Michigan, 5,273 tons.

Miscellaneous Articles.

WORLD-EMPIRES.

16th Feb.

It was about the close of the year 1894. The Russian *Novosti* had startled the world with its bold suggestion of a tripartite division of China amongst Russia, Great Britain, and France. A little later the *Berliner Neueste Nachrichten*, metropolitan organ of the Iron Chancellor, with equal boldness gave its northern contemporary to understand that when the Far Eastern Poland came to be cut up, the Germanic nation would claim its slice. "Germany," said the writer, "must be either a world-empire or a second-class Power." The "world-empire" expression has since then become "familiar in our mouths as household words," but the meanings attached to it appear to vary somewhat widely. Great Powers we know—there used to be five: international changes and courtesies have added a sixth; but what is a world-empire, and how many are there? Is it one whose territory is world-wide, whose flag floats in every zone and is carried across every sea? Or is it one whose power is sufficient to make its opinion of importance all the world over? If the former, then we may apply the dictum of a recent German estimate of the navies of the world, and as the writer declares Great Britain to be the only first-class naval power, so may we claim hers as the single world-empire. In each case France is a good second, and the rest nowhere. Russia by our definition is excluded for the same reason which shuts out the United States, for though big enough in extent, their territory is all in a lump. Spain, Portugal, and Holland have greater claims to world-empire than either of these. If on the other hand our definition is based on influence, then Russia is next to France, and Germany fourth, with the United States in close company.

As baldly stated in the extract we have quoted, the proposition may be fallacious. It seems to argue that world-wide empires must of necessity be first-class Powers, and possibly for a time this may be correct. Spain was once a Great Power, as was Portugal when compared with her present condition, but their extent of territory did not suffice to keep them so. Spain lost her greatness before she lost her possessions, and the vast territories which still acknowledge the sway of Portugal do not yield her any additional dignity.

We may therefore pause a moment to enquire what are the qualities which lead to the establishment and continuance of world-empire, and what to its hindrance or prevention. Speaking roughly it is evident that no lasting success in wide-spread dominion can be attained except by a race with that overflowing fertility which provides continuous swarms of colonists. It must moreover be possessed of a

roving, warlike nature, and be endowed with the imperial instinct. To ensure the continuance of an empire founded on these grounds, we require of the conqueror a certain sympathy with the subject races, a determination to act justly by them, and a belief that his rule is to their advantage. If to these the dominant race bring with them an easily assimilated tongue, and a love of freedom for freedom's sake, we may conclude that most of the elements required for permanent rule are present, and may be trusted to bring forth their natural fruit.

If on the contrary there is a lack of colonists, unnecessary interference with language, manners, customs, or religion, a domineering manner, and a too officious interference from the home government, we may conclude at once that such an empire, though world-wide in extent, will not continue world-wide in influence. Our readers will easily supply instances from their own knowledge. As Englishmen we believe our race to be pre-eminent in the possession of the qualities necessary for success in colonisation. The one point on which there can be a doubt is one of very recent growth, and refers much more to our ruling classes than to the rank and file of the nation. As onlookers, and interested onlookers, at the great drama unfolding around us, we are somewhat anxiously asking whether our rulers are losing those warlike instincts which have ever been one of the great factors in the expansion of the empire. It is quite certain that they have put up with far more than our fiery forefathers would have done. Possibly the men at the helm may be acting wisely, but so far the wisdom is not apparent.

As for our competitors for world-empire, France, with far better chances than either of the others, must fall out of the race for lack of staying power. The emigrant swarms necessary to build up successful colonies do not exist for her. For Russia and Germany they do. Both these have in them the elements of success to a great extent; not of perfect success if our analysis be correct, for both are as yet too autocratic, too officious, and too unbending. The Russian ruler has erased the word "freedom" from his dictionaries. Neither in the press, the pulpit, the university, or the school is it ever uttered. Where two or three are gathered together to talk over its blessings and to long for a taste of it there is the ever constant dread of the police, the knout, the fortress, and Siberia. Hence a canker is gnawing at the very heart of Russian power, and this mighty nation, so great, that at the moment it is the arbiter of the destinies of Europe, is nevertheless in the unenviable position of one whose healthy-looking exterior covers a cancer within. The Nihilist movement in Russia may by timely concession be made as harmless as British Freema-

sonry, but there is as yet no sign of these concessions, and until there is Russia will never be able to exert all her strength.

Germany has a great advantage over her giant neighbour in being more homogeneous. She has, besides, a large measure of freedom, a rapidly increasing population, growing manufactures, imperial instincts, and as much fightableness as is necessary to win a dozen empires. Judging from past experience we should say that her ill-success in colonising is due to two main causes. First, she is so late in the day that the most favourable sites for world-empires have long since been occupied, and secondly, her people appear to appreciate the absolute freedom of the Anglo-Saxon lands so much that nothing will tempt them to throw in their lot—except it be an official lot—with the Germanies over the sea. To which may be added the fact that in the present crowded state of the world a new comer is sure to oust somebody or other and raise jealousies not easily allayed. Therefore, notwithstanding her qualifications for world-empire, Germany's success is by no means assured. It is more than doubtful in the Far East. There is, however, in South America room and to spare for Germany if she can overcome the objections of the United States. Some day or other we have no doubt the rotten republics which now disgrace that fair continent will be displaced by some efficient rule. Whether by virtue of the Monroe doctrine the United States will reserve that duty for their own, or whether Germany in conjunction with the other nations will successfully override the Great Republic's objection, we cannot attempt to determine. It is extremely likely however that Germany would find her expansion in that direction to follow the line of least resistance.

WASHING AS IT IS DONE.

17th Feb.

IN days not so very far back there was one surprise constantly reserved for the Shanghaiander going home for the first time. After the first time it ceased to excite surprise. Being a prudent man our Shanghaiander would keep at the bottom of his portmanteau one clean shirt for eventualities. Like the coin that was given him as a child which he was never to spend but was to carefully guard so that he might always have some money in his pocket, he never put on this shirt, even on the morning of the day he was to land; and when he finally took it out of his portmanteau, on arriving at his destination, he was surprised to find that it was quite brown, though it had seemed to him a beautiful glossy white when he packed it up in Shanghai. If his inquisitive young sister asked him about it, he said: "Oh! it must be the muddy river water they wash in at Shanghai." Little did he or the

inquisitive young sister dream of what his clothes had really been through.

It would be too much to say that Dr. Macleod's Report, which will be found in another column, on the Chinese Wash-houses for the Washing of Foreign Clothing, at Shanghai, will come as a revelation to our readers, for it has been generally and more or less widely known for years that nothing could well be dirtier than the means in use in Shanghai for producing cleanliness in our clothes. People have been in the habit, however, of questioning their washermen—a notoriously truthful class who would shrink with horror from the idea of wearing their customers' socks and singlets while standing in a filthy creek beating shirts on a stone,—and being satisfied with the conviction conveyed to them that their washermen were not as other people's washermen. We have even known people try to discover for their own dissatisfaction where and how their clothes were washed, but their boys have generally succeeded in protecting their allies, the washermen, by so mystifying their masters that no beneficial result has been achieved by the attempted investigations.

It has thus been reserved for Dr. Macleod, Captain Mackenzie, and Mr. Mayo to reveal the true condition of Shanghai's wash-houses in all its hideous deformity; and we doubt if anyone who reads the report—and we earnestly recommend its perusal—will want to wear, or use, or sleep in, or wipe face or hands with, anything that comes clean from a Chinese wash-house again. Some people read with satisfaction on their washermen's cards that they use Waterworks water. But Dr. Macleod assures us on the testimony of the washermen themselves that this is a fallacy. "Of forty Hongkew establishments visited every one uses pond or creek water. I was assured of this by washermen themselves even as they handed to me their cards on which it was stated that only Waterworks water was used. These men could not read their own cards which in many instances are made up by middlemen for advertising purposes. Of the eleven wash-houses visited in the neighbourhood of the Carter Road, nine are similarly supplied with water. The Washing Company alone has Waterworks water laid on." The description given by Dr. Macleod of the "distinctly best water supply of all the Hongkew washermen," which comes from a creek "covered by a scum of vegetable and other matters emanating from fifty beggar-boats anchored to the bank and to each other," is quite sufficient to account for the mysterious irritations one often feels after putting on what one has been induced by one's boy to believe are clean underclothes.

When Angelina, tired with the dance, in the seclusion of a snug corner on the upper landing, rests her fair head for a moment on Edwin's manly bosom—if such indiscretions are ever

committed in Shanghai; it is an entirely hypothetical case,—she little thinks how the immaculate polish of that shirt front was produced. Dr. Macleod tells us. "The worker, having spread out the shirt,"—on an ironing-board which is used in its hours of leisure as a bed,—"dips his mouth and often the tip of his nose"—previously wiped, perhaps, on one of Angelina's pocket-handkerchiefs—"into a dish of water, sucks up and squirts the mouthful over the shirt front, and having ironed it, deposits the finished article in a cupboard, if there be one, in most instances on a neighbouring bed." And Dr. Macleod has previously explained that these beds "are wooden planks with mats and quilts for bedding, each of these, especially the quilts, competing with one another in dirtiness. The cotton removed from one of these quilts is scarcely recognisable as such. Quilts last long."

We have surely said enough—and those who are eager to know the worst will find a great deal more in Dr. Macleod's report—to fill with absolute despair the mind of everyone who sends his or her clothes to a Chinese wash-house. Perhaps we ought to add Dr. Macleod's conclusion:—

"The application of these facts in their relation to the great bulk of the community is not a little startling when it is realised that the table napkins with which lips are wiped, table cloths off which food is eaten, handkerchiefs applied to eyes, nose, and mouth, towels drying the whole body, all underclothing, collars, shirts, bed sheets, in fact all clean clothes in many conceivable ways are exposed to infection from the time they leave till they return to the owner. This must be so unless it can be shown that the washermen and their families are exempt from the diseases of their neighbours, such as various skin diseases, diphtheria, syphilis, small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, chicken-pox, etc. It is lamentable that clean clothes should be made the vehicle for the spread of disease. It is not to be wondered at that medical men are at times unable to trace the origin of mysterious cases of small-pox, measles, etc.

"Even if it were possible to say that disease is not spread in this way, it is disgusting to think that linen has been subjected to such treatment in such surroundings."

What is the remedy? The Chairman gives, as will be seen, a list of twelve essential requisites in Shanghai for the proper washing of clothes, linen, etc. They are obviously unattainable under the present system, and we must have Municipal Wash-houses, whose employment must be made compulsory on all washermen. The present system must be put a stop to as soon as possible.

THE QUESTION OF THE DAY.

18th Feb.

THE value of the silver tael has again gone below half-a-crown, and the dollar, the unit of the ordinary transactions of our social life, is worth considerably less than two shillings, though there are some still amongst us who remember its being worth five shillings. The Bitter Cry of the Customs Staff, whose appeal we have printed, is accentuated by the renewed decline in the value of "the pale and common drudge," which failed its possessors as miserably in the days of Solomon. There have been some, we are told, who thought there was a hint of sarcasm in the heading we gave to the pathetic appeal of the hundreds, if not thousands, of foreigners employed in one of the most honourable services in the world, the Imperial Maritime Customs of China. But nothing so disgraceful was ever even thought of when that heading was put to the letter and appeal. It is in all seriousness an exceeding bitter cry that the employees of the Customs make to the Inspector-General. Years ago, some thirty years ago in fact, "Mr. Crowquill" sang in a burlesque here a famous song in which the rhymers said of the Foreign Ministers in Peking, that

"Snug in Pekin,

"They hear not the din

Of merchants praying till hoarse!"

We do not believe that Sir Robert Hart hears not the din that his distressed subordinates are making now. There is nothing fictitious or exaggerated in it. The men who are suffering are prone to conceal the details of their calamities; but if the world knew how women and children who had good reason to expect a better fate, are being pinched and actually anguished by the *res angusta domi* that has fallen upon them with the fall in silver, there would be an even stronger feeling than there is, that the Tsungli Yamén and the head of the Service must not neglect the prayer that has gone up to them. It is an axiom that no service can be carried on with integrity and satisfaction whose members are underpaid. The Customs Service has hitherto been remarkably free from any suspicion of corruption; but to keep it so—and it is an undying honour to the Service that it has been kept so up till now—its members must be paid a living wage, a wage that will keep them above the carking care in which no man can do his work properly, and that will put them above the reach of the temptations that specially beset the members of such a service. It must not be supposed that the suffering is confined to the lower ranks of the Customs hierarchy. It is universal; the man who thought he had a salary of £1,500 a year, and orders his life accordingly, and then finds it reduced by causes entirely beyond his own control to £750, suffers

as much in proportion as the man who thought his salary worth £150, and finds it practically reduced to £75. Each feels that the reduction is a gross injustice; and it must be a very exceptional man—and the Chinese Government may thank itself that it has so many exceptional men in its service—who can do his daily work at his best when he is labouring under a sense of injustice.

There are bimetalists, and we may take Mr. Wetmore as a type, who fortify their position by the assertion that in silver-using countries silver will buy just as much as it did when its current ratio to gold was 16 to 1. The statement is a fallacy, and a cruel fallacy; it is especially fallacious in Shanghai. Here, not only have the prices of things imported from home, of which a foreigner, however economical he is, must be a large consumer, increased enormously, but native produce, rents, wages, and all the constituents of a man's monthly expenditure, have also followed the so-called appreciation of gold. There are two courses before the Tsung-li Yamen; to see a certain deterioration in the Customs Service, with a general introduction of distrust and corruption, or to grant the appeal of the staff; and the latter is not only the more just course, but it will be far the cheaper in the end. It must be a bitter thing for the staff, to see the trade of China and the Imperial revenue enormously increased, as they point out in their appeal, by the fall in silver, and to feel their lot, the lot of the men who collect that revenue with a really admirable energy and integrity, concurrently getting worse and worse. The Mosaic injunction is: "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn;" the Confucian injunction has a similar intention: "Thou shalt not slaughter the labouring ox;" but the Customs Service muzzles its labourers with poverty and kills them by inches.

Meanwhile, the employees of the Customs have many companions in misery. There are hundreds of foreigners here in other walks of life who are passing through the same bitter experience. There are firms and institutions that have already recognised that a readjustment was necessary, and that have made compensation in one form or another to their staff. But there are others that are seeking to put off the inevitable, and that are committing what is really a serious injustice as well as a mistake. In the old days clerks and others were engaged at home on salaries fixed in sterling. Where this system still prevails the wage-earner is in clover, and he is as happy at every decline in the gold value of silver as the shareholders in the Cotton Mills. But the man who has his salary fixed in silver at home, and who does not realise what a dollar means, and what a very unstable coin it is, and is perhaps told it still has in the East the

same purchasing power that it always had, finds his lot get more and more gloomy daily, becomes dissatisfied and discontented, and is inevitably destined to measure the work he does by the remuneration he gets. Unless the entirely unexpected—in the rehabilitation of silver—happens, a general readjustment of salaries must occur, and the sooner it is generally taken in hand, the better for all.

NOTES ON DREAMS.

19th Feb.

THE question of sleep, and that of the dreams that so often accompany it, is one of never-failing interest. It is a wonderful thing that all living things—for it is known that plants sleep—should to keep alive be obliged to die for some portion of every twenty-four hours—"I die daily," says St. Paul—and it is a wonder that all of us recognise and no one can satisfactorily explain. The explanation is not so difficult to those who believe that life, consciousness, the soul, whichever you may prefer to call it, is only a condition, not an entity. A clock or any similar piece of machinery is alive while it is at work; when it stops it is dead. Nothing is added to it to make it go, be alive; nothing is taken away from it to make it stop, be dead. The going, that is the life, is only a condition; the stopping, that is the death, is only a condition.

Shelley says:—

"How wonderful is death!
Death and his brother Sleep."

Shakespeare says:—

"Sleep that knits up the ravell'd
sleeve of care,
The death of each day's life, sore
labour's bath,
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's
second course,
Chief nourisher in life's feast."

Thus sleep is only the brother of death, the death of each day's life, it is not death for good and all, though sleep slides into death, as all who have watched by the bedside of a dying friend know, absolutely imperceptibly.

"We thought her dying when she
slept,

And sleeping when she died,"

says Hood in one of his most pathetic little poems. We are reminded of this in the letter of our Moukden correspondent, who tells us how one morning in his first winter at Newchwang, he came across thirty-five masses of ice, each mass having been a living man at ten o'clock the preceding night. They had come out of the opium dens in which they had been enjoying themselves, the keen air had made them sleepy, and they never woke. The difference between sleep and death is, it appears, that life may be re-awakened in the sleeping subject, but never in the dead one. Men apparently dead from drowning or suffocation are sometimes brought to life

again; and it is probable that many men are given up as dead who are only sleeping, though it is sleep which if not arrested glides imperceptibly into death.

Cardinal Newman gives a fine description of sleep in his *Dream of Gerontius*:—

"Am I alive or dead? I am not dead,
But in the body still, for I possess
A sort of confidence which clings to me,
That each particular organ holds its place
As heretofore, combining with the rest
Into one symmetry, that wraps me round
And makes me man; and surely I could
move,

Did I but will it, every part of me.
And yet I cannot to my sense bring home
By very trial, that I have the power.
'Tis strange; I cannot stir a hand or foot,
I cannot make my fingers or my lips
By mutual pressure witness each to each,
Nor by the eyelid's instantaneous stroke
Assure myself I have a body still.
Nor do I know my very attitude,
Nor if I stand, or lie, or sit, or kneel.
So much I know, not knowing how I
know,

That the vast universe where I have
dwelt

Is quitting me, or I am quitting it;
Or I, or it, is rushing on the wings
Of light or lightning on an onward
course,
And we're now are million miles
apart."

Another difference between death and his brother sleep is that the former is dreamless. But is it? Hamlet raises the question, and again we quote Shakespeare, who knew by intuition so much more about everything than any other writer whose works still exist, that some people still insist that he was some-one else:—

"To die; to sleep;

No more;—and, by a sleep, to say we
end

The heart-ache, and the thousand
natural shocks

That flesh is heir to; 'tis a consummation

Devoutly to be wished. To die, to
sleep;

To sleep: perchance to dream; ay,
there's the rub;

For in that sleep of death what dreams
may come,

When we have shuffled off this mortal
coil,

Must give us pause."

If our consciousness, our soul, is an entity distinct from our body, which is present in the body when we are awake, and absent when we are asleep, may we not dream after we are dead? Discussing Sleep, a writer in the *Spectator* of the 11th of December says:—

"We may infer that consciousness is not compatible with sleep and that consciousness, or that power which we lose when we fall asleep, is the controlling power of the mind. But may it not be argued from this that this consciousness, this controlling power of the mind, this true soul, this rider of

the mental horse, is unable to be present except in a waking body? When the body enters into the temporary death of sleep the consciousness is dethroned. The moment the body reawakens, the soul, which can only animate a waking body, returns to its seat. This consciousness, this soul, is, again, dethroned by death, or by some grave injury to the body. Death is the condition from which the body cannot recover itself and resume activity. Hence in the case of death the soul does not return. Madness, or a terrible concussion, or some grievous injury to the body also dethrones the soul, but in such cases there is still the possibility of return, and if the body recovers its full functions the controlling consciousness returns."

Most of us after a certain age recognise that our memory is automatic, and that we cannot compel it; we can indicate to it what we want it to recall, but that it will instantly obey is doubtful. Sooner or later it will probably obey, often when we have forgotten what we asked it to recall. So the mind, of which the memory is a part, is automatic, and it often keeps awake while the rest of the body has gone to sleep, and its exercises then are our dreams. Sometimes the memory too sleeps while a part of the mind is awake, and we dream dreams that we remember we dreamt but cannot recall, because memory was too sleepy to record them.

Now and then we can remember a dream perfectly, and then nearly the whole mind must have been awake, for these dreams are generally good, well-connected stories with impossibilities and anachronisms in them, but not necessarily nonsensical. Such a dream has been sent to us. We are assured on the best authority that it is an actual dream, unpolished and unelaborated, dreamt by an unromantic young person, who, we are told, has never read Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner*. It is remarkably connected, and possible, if we may say so, in its impossibility. It is very imaginative, and might be worked up into an excellent Christmas story; and we are sure that it will interest all of our readers who like to ponder over the ever-present mystery of death, and sleep, and dreams:—

"I seemed to be on board a small steamer or yacht in the Inland Sea, and as we steamed along from island to island through narrow channels, the Captain, whom I recognised as an old friend, came and stood by my side on the deck and pointing out a small Japanese town which we were passing, told me that a hundred years before the people of that town had captured a foreign ship, and had made her fast to the wharf with heavy chains, at the same time not allowing anyone from the ship to land.

"The captain of the foreign ship, seeing that all on board must die of starvation, lashed his men to their posts, that they might die

bravely, each man in his place; and so they died, and after all were dead the Japanese cut the ship adrift and let her float away with her ghastly crew still lashed to their places; and so she has been drifting ever since.

"The Captain had hardly finished his tale, when, looking up, I saw a large ship coming rapidly towards us; an old-fashioned sailing vessel with three masts, high bows and stern, and a good deal of ornamental carving about her; she was in perfect condition, only her top-gallant masts and a few smaller spars being missing. She came up with us and passed us, quickly drifting with the current, for she had no sails, and as she passed close I saw to my horror that all along her deck and at her ports, standing as though ready for battle, were skeletons, carrying strange old-fashioned weapons in their hands. Their bones were bleached to a peculiar whiteness, and their skulls, grinning horribly, seemed to turn and look at us.

"Suddenly, a living man, dressed in rough sailor's clothes, and with an expression of terror upon his face, rushed up from one of the hatches of the ship, and tearing along the deck as though hunted, sprang over the side and disappeared in the waves.

"The ship passed on, and looking round, I found an old sailor by my side, who, pointing to the receding vessel, told me that three days before, the same ship had passed them so close as to scrape alongside, and that 'one of them ghostises' (pointing to the skeletons) had come out on to a small gangway and beckoned to one of the sailors of our little steamer who had immediately jumped on board and followed it as though fascinated. This was the man we had just seen and, added the old seaman: 'He'd been three days aboard that awful ship and he must have gone mad, poor fellow.'

"Then the ship disappeared in the distance."

In conclusion:—

"We are such stuff

As dreams are made on, and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep."

Holloway's Pills and Ointment.—The most effectual Cure for Gout and Rheumatism. — A frequent cause of these complaints is the inflammatory state of the blood, attended, with bad digestion, lassitude, and great debility, showing the want of a proper circulation of the fluid, and that impurity of the blood greatly aggravates these disorders. Holloway's Pills are of so purifying a nature that a few doses taken in time are an effectual preventive against gout and rheumatism, but anyone that has an attack of either should use Holloway's Ointment also, the powerful properties of which, combined with the effects of the Pills, ensure a certain cure. The Ointment should be thoroughly rubbed into the parts affected at least twice a day, after they have been sufficiently fomented with warm water to open the pores to facilitate the introduction of the Ointment to the glands. (1)

Reviews.

THE FRENCH MAIL PAPERS.

(FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 14TH OF JAN.)

THE weekly journals specially prepared in London for the Far East are full of extracts bearing on the China question written before the muzzle was, apparently, put upon the London Press. We have no room to repeat these extracts in this column this morning, but we may give one or two translations from Continental papers. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* says:—

It is certainly no accident that many articles in papers of the most various colours are now expressing the wish for better relations with England, mostly in the form that the State with the largest transmarine possessions need not be envious, and must recognise the right of a competitor, whose goodwill the politically much-isolated Island Kingdom may need, in more than one province of affairs. We have reason to believe that the desire for a friendly relation with England is sincere.

When we read the following from the *Kölnische Zeitung*, we wonder whether England, with her chain of coaling stations reaching from the Channel to Hongkong, is really the Power most unwilling to expose herself to the perils of war:—

We will not repeat the hackneyed assertion that the British have been changing more and more for eighty years past into a commercial nation, lacking courage for far-reaching warlike enterprises. On the contrary, we are still profoundly convinced that, at least, the individual Englishman is quite equal to the most arduous political tasks, so far as energy and resolution are concerned. But, just as a mediæval castle was better able to stand a siege than a modern tenement house, so England, with her exceedingly complicated political institutions and the deep-cogged wheel work of her worldwide empire, can only with very great difficulty expose herself to the dangers of a modern war. We need only remember that whenever war breaks out a few swift hostile cruisers would suffice to render the importation of provisions into the ocean-girt island kingdom difficult, and would raise prices to a height beyond the reach of the working classes and inflict incalculable damage on the Mother Country. England will, therefore, never wish to expose herself to the perils of war, unless vital British interests are directly threatened.

We may balance these two extracts from German papers with a couple taken from French journals. Referring to a recent Cabinet Council in London, the *Liberté* says:—

"It is beyond doubt that the Ministers dealt practically with the Chinese question, and with the loan which is meant to rivet the Chinese to the British Empire. It is reported that Queen Victoria said to her grandson, Prince Henry, when he waited upon her to take leave, 'My dear Prince, I hope you will not kill off all the Chinese: you will leave some for us, won't you?' This irony accurately defines British policy. Whilst our fussy Diplomats are giving, themselves so much trouble to get something out of this *imbroglio*, England will find the means of selling her coal to all parties, and to form an Anglo-Chinese-Japanese Alliance which must be paramount in the Far East. As to Germany, her establishment in those regions will make it indispensable for her to get hold of Trieste, and that pretension will probably be the beginning of the end."

The following, from the *Journal des Débats*, was evidently written before it was known that reinforcements were coming to the British squadron in China:—

England is sending troops to Egypt that will raise her force there to ten thousand men, drawn from Malta, Gibraltar, England, and India, while she has not sent a single ship to reinforce her Squadron on the China Station. What conclusion does that lead to? At the very time when all eyes are turned to the Far East, Great Britain is preparing to commence in the Soudan an expedition

which, from the preparations in progress, is far more serious than a merely defensive expedition. It is a real expedition of conquest she is preparing, the objective of which is Khartoum, and possibly the whole valley of the Upper Nile. And that at a time when her political and commercial interests in China are likely to be menaced. It must be admitted that if at this particular juncture Great Britain launches into such an adventure as the Sudan, she must feel fully reassured as to what is about to take place in China. And if she be thus reassured, it must be either because she has received assurances from Germany, or else because she has given *carte blanche* to Germany at Kiaochou in exchange for the friendly neutrality of Germany in Egypt and the Sudan; or lastly, because Great Britain has, with a determined object, concluded an alliance with Japan. And if it be not an alliance in the ordinary sense of the word, it is at least an understanding, an accord, founded on a recognised identity of political and commercial interests. Such being the case, it becomes a matter of the highest importance to follow very closely the movements of the British troops in the Sudan, and, indeed, in a less degree throughout Africa, for it must be inferred from the facts that are occurring that the Far East question is adjourned for the time being, so far as a partition or dismemberment of China is concerned. And that the only question is the Chinese loan, which means securing a mortgage on China.

There was a general protest in the Press against the Sirdar's decision that only Reuter's representative should be allowed to accompany the Nile Expedition, a decision modified later by Lord Salisbury; but one of the provincial papers points out that:—

Secrecy is absolutely essential to the success of Sir Herbert Kitchener's plans. He is performing a very grave duty in a very admirable manner with inadequate material. If Dongola was reconquered as cheaply and with as little bloodshed as it was, it was because the Sirdar managed to surprise the enemy. He surprised them again at Abu Hamed; and, no doubt, he has other surprises in store for them. But he cannot hope to keep his secrets with the ubiquitous and omniscient war correspondent about him, and with ample means of gaining information at the disposal of the Khalifa. There are cases where an energetic protest against a decision to allow journalists to accompany a military force would be justified. But every case must be adjudged in the light of the circumstances peculiar to it; and in this instance we cannot help thinking that Sir Herbert Kitchener has exercised a wise discretion.

In its issue of the 12th ult. the *Globe* says under the heading, "The Chinese Question":—

The German Press, it is interesting to observe, is deluding itself into believing that public opinion in England is against this country being the chief carver of the Chinese joint. Little or no exception is taken, also, to Mr. Balfour's speech at Manchester, on the ground that it "is manifestly not directed against Germany." It is hard to understand how any construction can be placed on Mr. Balfour's words, than that of a warning to Germany that her "sovereign rights" over Kiaochou would only be permitted by us to be of a curtailed description. The First Lord of the Treasury clearly pointed out that one of the chief dangers to be averted in China was "that foreign countries with protectionist traditions might dot the coast of China with stations over which they had complete control, and through which they would not permit the trade of the world freely to permeate." Yet, depend upon it, continued the speaker, the Government will do their best to see that in this way the trade of the country is not injured. There is nothing ambiguous about this statement. If words mean anything, Mr. Balfour has on behalf of the Government made a clear and unmistakable announcement that in none of these latest "acquisitions" of Chinese territory by European Powers will this country allow British trade to be shut out or injured by protective tariffs. This will partly explain the presence of our ships at Port Arthur and in the neighbourhood of the Gulf of Pechili generally. Our display of force

in those waters may be taken as an earnest of our intention* to exercise an effective protection to British commerce in every port, whether "occupied" by Germany, Russia, or any other Power, and the sooner our neighbours fully understand this state of affairs, the better for their own dignity and the peace of the world.

The *Overland Mail* has a third leading article on "The Government Policy in China," which we give in full, trusting that Lord Salisbury will resolutely carry into effect the policy laid down by his nephew:—

Mr. Balfour has now indicated in no uncertain terms the lines of British policy in regard to the critical situation developed by the impetuous proceedings of the Emperor William in the Far East. That policy has been described with fair accuracy and vindicated in two successive articles in the *Overland Mail*, and it is satisfactory—if somewhat amusing—to note that since it has been issued, with the imprimatur of the leader of the House of Commons our contemporaries have hailed it as the most obviously fit policy for England to pursue. We may readily admit that, while expressing our surprise that the *Times* and *Standard* and other newspapers should have kept a thing so obvious bottled up during the period when its publication and discussion might have helped to relieve much public anxiety. Mr. Balfour started from the premise that our interests in China were not territorial interests, but commercial interests, whence he deduced the conclusion that territory, in so far as it is not necessary to supply a base for possible warlike operations, is a disadvantage, rather than an advantage. His next inference is that as we hold eighty per cent of the whole of the world's external trade with China "we have a special claim to see that the policy of that country is not directed towards the discouragement of foreign trade." Thirdly, our Free Trade policy, as we showed last week, precludes us from using any trading privilege granted to us as a weapon for excluding rivals; we must insist on "freedom of trade for all the world alike." That is a principle which at once commends our policy to the sympathy of all sound-thinking men, even among nations which are politically and commercially our rivals. It gives a superiority to our policy over any alternative that can possibly be suggested. Hence, our supreme interest being patent, and perforce admitted, we cannot allow other nations to put pressure on the Peking Government to grant them privileges from which we are to be excluded; nor can we allow them to dot the coast of China with posts which will virtually interpose barriers to our trade. This is what Mr. Balfour lays down as the policy of the Government. It is at once strong and sound, and all we can now ask is that they will resolutely carry it into effect.

The following is the Money Market note in the *Economist* of the 8th ult. :—

The market has not yet settled down after the disturbance that always takes place at the turn of the year. The dividend and other payments have furnished it with supplies more than sufficient to enable it to pay off its indebtedness to the Bank, and as a result, rates have declined, short loans being now obtainable at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, while for best three months' bills the quotation has dropped to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Consequently the discount houses are talking about reducing the deposit allowances. But it would be as well for them to wait a little and see how things move. Not much importance is to be attached to the shipment this week of fully half-a-million of gold to South America, for it is not likely that any large demand will be made upon us from that quarter, and gold movements between Argentina and London are frequently dictated more by Stock Exchange considerations than anything else. But if the rumoured negotiations with a view of providing here the money which China wants to pay off Japan come to anything, the result will be, if not gold shipments to the East, transfer of funds from the market to the Bank of England, such as has been experienced when previous instalments of the indemnity money were provided for. Now, too, the revenue collection should tend to diminish outside supplies; the Bank holds a

considerable quantity of bills, which as they mature will enable it, if it chooses, to strengthen itself at the expense of the market, and cheaper money here will increase the possibility of gold being taken hence for the United States. The outlook, therefore, is not at all so assured as to justify any hasty lowering of rates.

In its first leading article on "The Coming Session," the *Economist* predicts that the Government will get through the session all right, but will not have an easy time. They cannot be blamed about the Khartoum expedition, because the House has sanctioned it, and it is understood that France is not to be allowed to interfere. She may send a scientific expedition to Fashoda, but a force will be repelled. Fashoda, by-the-by, is in latitude 10 south, and longitude 32.30 east, about 330 miles due south of Khartoum. Then, everybody approves of the "moderate yet strong" policy Lord Salisbury intends to follow in China, which is that our trade will be so protected that Great Britain shall in that respect stand in a position of equality with the most favoured nation. But there will be much debating on the reorganization of our army, which is in a very unsatisfactory condition, and it is quite certain that the Military Department will not propose a satisfactory plan. The Government will be seriously attacked on the Frontier War in India, which has been grossly mismanaged. Lord George Hamilton is an incompetent Indian Minister; he can neither control the India office, nor uphold its doings in debate.

Moreover, although ordinary Englishmen are not able to criticise military operations in a remote mountain district, and are willing when they can to abstain from doing so, the most ordinary man in the street can see that a perpetual marching of detachments to exposed positions, perpetual retreats from those positions, and perpetual losses of good men, without any result, cannot be able campaigning. It is useless to describe it as such, more especially when if it had been successful, the value of the result would have been so problematical that some of the ablest experienced administrators of India, like Lord Northbrook, altogether decline to affirm it. . . .

It will take the whole strength of the Government to defend themselves upon this subject, and, but for their majority, the weakness of the Opposition in leaders, and the great reluctance of the sober-minded members to embarrass a Government upon such a subject, they might even be overthrown.

They will not be overthrown if they act judiciously but we would earnestly point out to them that as regards all the subjects of controversy we have named they must, if they wish for hearty support as well as mere victory in divisions, consent to run the risks of being a little more frank and intelligible. The country is quite aware of the occasional necessity for secrecy, and never holds Governments bound to explain except to Parliaments, but it is at heart very weary of the half light in which it has been kept. Sensible people put up with fog in London without murmuring more than they can help, but nobody has ever yet been found to say he likes it. Mistakes will be pardoned if the Government is clearly seen to have good objects, but it must state those objects as to China, as to the Army, and, above all, as to the Indian frontier war more plainly than it has done, or the country will believe that on some most important subjects the State is being allowed to drift. There is already an impression that Lord Salisbury is too entirely devoted to his Foreign Office business, and does not show energy enough in bringing his team up to the collar, as Sir Robert Peel, Lord Palmerston, and even Lord Beaconsfield used to do. Frank debates showing that the Cabinet and all its members are pursuing with good success or even bad success definite and worthy ends will dissipate this impression, but nothing else will, and if there is risk, as there may be, in such frankness, it must be accepted as one of the unpleasantnesses which courageous Governments occasionally have to face. At all events, when silence is necessary

let it be avowed, and defended, and not concealed by a quantity of vague talk, from which the average elector derives no conviction except that those who lead him are in as much perplexity as to the road to be pursued as he is himself.

The article that follows on "The Revenue and the Budget Prospect" is cheering, the *Economist* holding that the probable surplus will make it possible to reduce the income-tax. The Yokohama correspondent sends a good article on "The Political and Financial Situation in Japan," which is not very satisfactory; while an article on "Our Foreign Trade in 1897" begins by saying that "there is ample evidence that during the past year the trade of the country, as a whole, although it was hampered in a good many ways, was fairly prosperous and progressive." Among the Business Notes is the following cautious one on the Chinese Loan Rumours:—

It will be well not to attach too much importance to the circumstantial rumours which are being so freely circulated, to the effect that the financial requirements of the Chinese Government are to be provided by the issue of a loan for £16,000,000 under the guarantee of the British Government. It is quite true, of course, that guarantees of the kind have been given by this country in several instances where political exigencies have appeared to be of sufficient importance to justify the acceptance of responsibility for the interest and principal of the amounts borrowed; and if the object of the loan is to secure political influence, the guarantee would, of course, provide a more efficacious means than if the money were advanced by private capitalists. In the latter case, of course, it is the settled policy of the Government not to interfere in the event of default, whereas if the guarantee were given and a similar default arose, the Government would be bound to intervene. It has to be borne in mind, however, that the fiscal conditions prevailing in the Chinese Empire are of an extraordinarily complicated character, and that it would be extremely difficult, without entirely remodelling the whole system of internal taxation, to obtain any effective control over the collection of such imposts as the land tax and *likin*, which would presumably form the chief security for the projected loan. It may be doubted, too, whether the central authority in Peking has strength enough to stand up against the intense opposition which would be raised by the provincial authorities to any attempt at more effective control in the collection of the internal revenues. We do not say that difficulties of that kind are insuperable, but at the same time, it would be foolish to shut one's eyes to the fact that difficulties exist, and that they are very great indeed. It may also be pointed out that there is a certain inconsistency in the position taken up by those who are most urgently advocating the loan. On the one hand, they are insisting that our own Government should stand firmly upon treaty rights, and permit no foreign Power to obtain in China privileges or trade facilities which are denied to us; while, on the other hand, they are advocating the guarantee as the means of securing for this country quite a favoured position in China. In the present state of things it is hardly worth while to argue the matter at length, though it will be necessary to deal with it if the project takes shape. In the meanwhile, it is well that the points we have indicated should not be lost sight of.

The following Notes are from the *Saturday Review*:—

Even as Germany, flourishing a mailed fist, sent crusaders to China in order that the Gospel might be spread, the Russian policy, it seems, proceeds from a moral motive scarcely less exalted. Mr. Syromiatnikov, member of a Russian mission recently returned from China, has expounded this motive in the *Daily News*. It is not conquest that Russia seeks. Her aspiration is merely to promote the Brotherhood of Man. For centuries, it appears, she thought that the promised land of Brotherhood was India; "but since the Berlin Congress," says Mr. Syromiatnikov, "we have realised that we are essentially an Oriental people, whose great mission lies in the East." In fact, if it had not been for

Lord Beaconsfield, the Cossacks might now have been engaged in preaching the Brotherhood of Man in India.

The "Dreyfus Case" is still existing. On Monday it was re-opened in the trial, by Court-martial, of Major Esterhazy. No evidence of much importance was adduced then; but on Tuesday, when the evidence was expected to be important, the case was heard "in camera." It is true that for certain military offences a Court-martial, which is a private rite, is the proper tribunal; but in this matter, as the subject was of national moment, it had no rationality at all, and Major Esterhazy was acquitted. Moreover, the Court allowed it to leak out that each gentleman on the judgment-seat shook hands with him in congratulation on his acquittal. What the Court-martial wished to keep secret is secret still. That which it wanted to make public, the demagogic shaking of hands, was greeted by the plaudits of the Paris mob. The fact remains that the *bordereau* for which Captain Dreyfus was condemned to imprisonment in a cage did not seem to English eyes to be in the handwriting of the accused. His handwriting and the *bordereau* were reproduced in an English journal, and the slight similarity would not have deceived an English jury for a moment. Major Esterhazy may be innocent. It is more likely, we think, that Captain Dreyfus is.

The first leading article in the *Saturday* is on "The Cost and the Efficiency of our Army;" in the second, headed "The French Claims on the Upper Nile," the *Saturday* shows that the French occupation of the Bahr-el-Ghazal province of the Sudan is a very much more serious matter than the Foreign Office and the *Times* like to allow; that the French have been steadily working for twelve years for the annexation of the Bahr-el-Ghazal to French Central Africa, and that "as soon as the Anglo-Egyptian army began a serious advance on Khartoum, and the Russians had entered into a sort of religious alliance with the Abyssinians, then the French crossed the Nile Congo watershed into the territory they had so long watched." The French claim that we have no rights in the Bahr-el-Ghazal. They point out that we took Rhodesia away from Portugal on the ground mentioned in a dispatch published in 1890, that Portugal had never effected any real occupation of Matabeleland and Nyassaland:—

Rhodesia and Nyassaland are to-day British and not Portuguese by virtue of the principles enunciated in that dispatch. The French Government holds in regard to the British claims on the Bahr-el-Ghazal precisely the same view that England took of the Portuguese pretensions to British Central Africa and Rhodesia. The French Government accepts the British position that "a claim of sovereignty in Africa can only be maintained by real occupation." It argues that, therefore, as there is not a single Englishman in the Bahr-el-Ghazal provinces, and as no attempt is made there by England "to maintain order, protect foreigners, and control the natives," France has a perfect right to enter the country and undertake these duties. It holds that what is sauce for the Portuguese gander is sauce for the British goose. If England could seize Rhodesia because the Portuguese had withdrawn their stations and abandoned the region to the natives, then France can occupy the Bahr-el-Ghazal when Egypt had abandoned it. Accordingly the French flag has been hoisted in the Bahr-el-Ghazal and stations built there by M. Liotard. *Le Temps* now quietly assures us that Major Marchand cannot have done anything to which England can object, as he has not yet left territory "over which for many months past we have been exercising our rights of sovereignty." The *Times* may laugh at the French invasion and its toy steamers, and deny that the French can do anything except a little geographical research. But the French will not be persuaded to retire to the Mbomu by academic arguments. That the French have a strong case was practically admitted by Mr. Curzon, who in his last speech taunted the Liberals with having allowed our French rivals to beat us in the race for the possession of the Upper Nile. This admission alone ought to have warned the British Press that

the French can urge a plausible defence for their advance.

The following is the *Spectator's* note on the reported occupation of Fashoda by the French:—

During the week there have been apparently well-authenticated rumours that the French have occupied Fashoda, a place on the White Nile considerably above Khartoum, but below the junction of the Bahr-el-Ghazal with the main stream. How the French got there we do not know. Private letters published this week in the French newspapers, written by members of a French expedition which is "exploring" on the Bahr-el-Ghazal, show that the French have launched two boats on this affluent of the Nile. It is therefore, possible that they may have gone down with the current to Fashoda. It is also possible that some half-French, half-Abyssinian force may have reached Fashoda from Obok, having come, that is, from the Red Sea through Menelik's territory. We have pointed out elsewhere that as the French do not officially acknowledge the expedition, or announce the occupation of Fashoda, we have no *locus standi* for protesting. The French have been told in the firmest though politest way that we should make their occupation of any part of the upper valley of the Nile a *casus belli*. Until, however, we occupy the whole Nile Valley ourselves, we cannot forbid the visits of French semi-official scientific expeditions. The French are taking advantage of this fact. They probably argue that something may happen to England, in which case the scientific expeditions can become political. And even though England is able to enforce her claims, there is always the possibility that France may be able to egg on Menelik to take a slice of the Upper Nile for himself. The occupation of Fashoda may mean mischief, but unless we are very much mistaken, it will not mean war.

The *Spectator's* first leading article is on "The Situation on the Nile," and it does not think that the presence of the French expedition at Fashoda will lead to war. In "The New Year Honours" it speaks with very qualified content of Mr. Lipton's Knighthood. In "Lord Salisbury in China" it expresses its conviction that a guaranteed loan is a bad thing, "because it facilitates one of the worst features of modern history, the plunder of conquered States for the benefit of the victor through the agency of the loanmonger;" but it agrees to the loan, if by its means the partition of China can be avoided. Mr. W. J. Stillman sends the *Spectator* an interesting letter on "Sleep and Dreams."

The *Critic* writes under "Behind the Scenes":—

It is exceedingly gratifying to note that at length we have found a point in foreign policy upon which the bulk of British Radicals and Conservatives can apparently unite in support of the Government. I refer to the course outlined by Mr. Balfour as that which Great Britain will pursue in the Far East. The scheme is familiar by this time to most of my readers; in its main feature—insistence upon equal trade facilities in China for all nations concerned in the commercial development of the country—it has been advocated by the *Daily News*, the *Westminster Gazette*, and, amongst other journals, by the *Critic*. We shall not annex anything, and we shall not "lease" anywhere unless this should become necessary as part of our plan for defending our interests against aggression.

Meanwhile, despite Mr. Greenwood's extraordinary attack upon Japan, we shall do well to maintain the friendliest relations with the Government of that country and with America. With a united front here at home, and the most progressive peoples of East and West as our allies, we can calmly watch the abortive game which the Emperors are trying to play. I hear from a reliable Russian source that all is not harmony in the counsels of the Imperial-Republican Alliance; that France grows more and more restive in the rôle of chestnut-drawer for the Czar, whilst British and French officers fraternise in West Africa; and that Russia suspects the Kaiser of playing rather low down over the details of the Kiaochow and Port Arthur deal. In short, the outlook for England is better than for some time past.

The *Westminster Budget* is well worth taking in if only for F. O. Gould's excellent cartoons, and his recent essays in Picture-Telegraphy are particularly good. The cartoons in *Punch* by Sambourne and Tenniel both take their subject this week from China, the Kaiser in his new rôle of Emperor of China being very well done in Sambourne's cartoon. In Tenniel's, John Bull, the Czar, and the Kaiser are sitting round the table playing for a sixteen-million card held up by the Chinaman.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, ETC.

A Tsar's Gratitude. By Fred Wishaw. London: Longman's Colonial Library. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

THIS is a capital story for a wet afternoon or a deck chair. As the title shows it is a story of Russian life, a theme the writer has in previous books shown he can handle with success. We are introduced to court intrigue, police tyranny, and of course the inevitable nihilist. The book opens with an exciting incident said to have taken place during the Crimean war, in which an officer, by saving the life of the then Grand Duke Alexander, becomes a favourite of the future Czar. In the next chapter we read how the Okhotsk Regiment was driven back by the English on the heights of Inkermann, in spite of the efforts of the hero of the story, Captain Philipof, who is severely wounded and reported dead. The officer who saved the life of the Grand Duke, and who is called Jostoief, is a friend of Philipof, and, after the reported death of the latter, marries the girl to whom the unfortunate officer was engaged. Engrossed in the attractions of the court, the husband neglects his bride; to the great indignation of Philipof, who finds himself deprived of his sweetheart and also degraded by belonging to a disgraced Regiment. Then we have an attempt on the life of the Czar, frustrated by Philipof who, however, is accused of the crime and thrown into prison, his discontent with the treatment of his Regiment lending colour to the accusation brought against him. The story of his escape and the way in which he becomes involved with a Secret Society, and his final rehabilitation and restoration to favour is full of interest. There is not a dull page in the book; though an undercurrent of despair and sadness runs through it. The characters of the hero and his fiancée are clearly drawn, and the local colouring shows a personal acquaintance with the scenes described. We can heartily recommend the book as light and pleasant reading. It teaches no story and makes no pretensions to be more than it is—a good story well told.

MESSRS. CASSELL'S MAGAZINES.

The publications of this well-known firm are popular in every home and the copies of their principal periodicals which we have just received are quite up to the high literary standard expected of them. *Cassell's Magazine* is as tastefully got up as ever; the illustrations, both half-tone and sketches, being exceptionally good. At the present juncture a Klondyke romance cannot but be regarded as seasonable, and the continuation of Headon Hill's thrilling "Spectre Gold" justifies the good impression formed on all hands of the preliminary chapters. Mr. B. Robertson contributes an interesting article on Stage Animals which is profusely illustrated and cleverly written. In the course thereof he deals with the making of "property" animals—"anything from a lion to a grasshopper"—and in this connection relates the following anecdote:—

"Some people have an antipathy to rats, and I must confess myself amongst the number. Hence it happened that when the property-maker gave a rat a

push and I saw it glide like a curling-stone on ice towards me I shrank. The floor was carpeted, and in my experience no object impelled by a mere push had ever travelled on a carpet like that rat. It seemed to be suddenly endowed with life. The explanation was simple enough. The canvas covering the rat is painted from the fore part backward, and all the sewing is done backward, so that there should be no projections of any kind facing forward. After this explanation I pushed the rat backward and it ceased to move the moment the pushing hand left it. So life-like were the rats, though double the size of real ones, that two children coming into the shop with a customer, on seeing them, rushed screaming to the door. There is a story of an old theatre cat—a real cat—loitering about the wings during the performance of the *Ratcatcher of Hamelin*. It was just at the point when the rats under the spell of the piper's music followed him out of the town. Pussy saw the rats. They were retreating from her. She flew at one, but its indifference to her attack and the tasteless insipid canvas soon deceived her, and she relinquished her hold to retreat the way she came. That, however, was not an easy matter for battalions of rats, unmoved and exhibiting no fear, were bearing down upon her. The wires, too, indicated there was life somewhere, and she was excited both on account of the rats and the uproar her appearance had occasioned among the audience. She knew where she was, and she knew her way about the theatre, so she jumped over the footlights on the head of the conductor, ran down his body, and disappeared.

The *Saturday Journal* presents the usual attractive features and is brimful of gossip paragraphs and tit bits of useful information. Indicative of the feverish excitement attending the awaiting of football results in the old country, the following extract is worth perusal:—

A crowd of men and boys had gathered round the tobacconist's window, waiting for the result of a big cup-tie match. One and all were excited, and the chances of the local team were being eagerly (and at times hotly) discussed. "Yes, I suppose it's a good advertisement for me," said the tobacconist in answer to the writer's query, "but very few of that lot will come inside to buy. They don't care anything about me and my wares—they only want to see my telegram. It's quite a comedy watching their faces when the result is stuck up. It might be a life and death matter to them, they tremble so excitedly. If the message—it will be here soon—announces a win for the 'locals,' they'll kick up a din with rattles, whistles, and other torturing things which will wake the town. But if the favourites get licked, there'll be precious little row. The whole crowd will sneak away like whipped curs, many of them to drown their disappointment in drink. Take it badly? I should think they do! I've seen big men burst into tears when the result of the match hasn't suited them. I don't know how it is, but there is something in football which grips the affections of the public like a vice."

The *Quiver* is chiefly remarkable for a short and touching poem from the pen of Sir Edwin Arnold entitled "A Child's Wisdom." The Author of "The Light of Asia" presents childish woes and wishes with delightful simplicity. In the course of an article headed "Forgiveness and Fear" the Bishop of Derry writes:—

"Religious despair is reckless. Men say, as inspiration has recorded: 'There is no hope: we will walk after our own devices, and we will do every one after the stubbornness of his own evil heart.' Thus the belief that God is unforgiving teaches man to banish the thought of Him if they are strong enough: it has never yet begotten in any man that holy fear which is the beginning of wisdom, and is equally far

removed from the twin frenzies of recklessness and of terror. Everyone must have noticed, in the life of our Lord on earth, how glad were multitudes of poor fallen creatures, publicans and sinners, to renounce their evil ways. Clearly they had already desired salvation, if only they could hope for it; but their despair had not been remedial, they had gone on in sin because they saw no escape; and the fear of God was only born in them when the love of God became credible, visible, shining in the eyes of Jesus. This was, no doubt, one reason why He dealt most gently with those who had most deeply fallen. There was no danger of driving Simon the Pharisee to despair; but the scorned lost woman, weeping at her Master's feet, was ready to love much if only she might think herself forgiven. 'There is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared;' for while man utterly hopeless can attain to a gigantic and almost sublime defiance, yet brave men who set their teeth to die, and would have perished with indomitable valour, have wept like children when the un hoped-for deliverance came. So that fear, if you think of it, is, after all, the dusky shadow of hope, lengthening no doubt, like other shadows, as the sun withdraws, but vanishing, like them, when the darkness is complete. The text has also much to tell us about the nature of the forgiveness of God."

The matter-of-fact *Work* is quite up to date in the way of suggestions and hints in relation to modern inventions. With regard to pin-hole photography, the man with the camera will see that the following is a useful piece of information:—

Fit in the grooves for a sliding front a sheet of thin metal, in the centre of which has been drilled a hole not exceeding $\frac{1}{16}$ in. in diameter. Arrange the plate at such a distance that the disc of light thrown illuminates the corners of the plate and no more. The picture should not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ plate. The exposure varies from ten minutes to one hour in sunlight, according to subject. Use rapid plates. Take great care that no light reaches the plate except through the hole.

Imperial Maritime Customs' Medical Reports for the half year ended 31st March, 1897.

The first of these reports is an interesting abstract of a communication by Dr. J. J. Matignon, physician to the French Legation at Peking, to the Academy of Medicine, Paris, 3rd March, 1896. The abstract is entitled: "A note on the duration of vaccinal immunity produced by small-pox in North China." He vaccinated 122 children who were characteristically pitted by a previous attack of small-pox. His conclusions are:

1st.—Small-pox in North China confers a temporary immunity against vaccination. Its duration is relatively short; according to our statistics the maximum was 9.3, the minimum, 7 years.

2nd.—Children in China generally suffer from small-pox at an early age—the later they are vaccinated, the more likely will the vaccination take—the less immune are they.

3rd.—The success of vaccination is directly proportional to the quantity of lymph inoculated, and scarification is more successful than puncture—probably because more vesicles are thus produced.

4th.—Axillary glandular disturbance is more usual after scarification than after puncture, a disadvantage, but more than compensated for by the greater success of the former.

5th.—True vaccine vesicles were thus obtained, their serum inoculated on newly born infants producing typical vaccine vesicles.

6th.—In these cases, no relation could be established between the degree of vaccinal immunity and the supposed severity of the anterior small-pox attack as judged by the severity of the pitting.

7th.—Europeans who have had small-pox should after a certain time be revaccinated, if living in Peking, where small-pox is endemic.

Reported from Newchwang are three births, one adult death from small-pox and two infant deaths, an epidemic of mumps and no other case of serious illness.

Dr. Von Tuzelmann's report on Chefoo runs, "The health of the Chefoo community during the six months ended 31st March, 1897, has been very good, save for the prevalence of the fever mentioned in my last report. Of this there have been several cases. . . one ending fatally." Dr. Von Tuzelmann then continues his paper on the new blood parasites referred to in the notice of the last issue of these reports. "Farther experience," he says, "as will be shown, has necessitated a change in these views." He has evidently satisfied himself that the bodies in fig. 1, plate I, are not only parasites but that they are identical with the bodies in figs. 2 and 5 in the same plate. How the conclusion as to their identity is arrived at is not plain, inasmuch as the latter are at least 100 times larger, are not of similar appearance, and only two specimens have been seen on a single occasion in one slide. He says these two specimens are "evidently a breeding phase" of the "medusoid parasite." The writer then proceeds "with the other organism, on the natural and pathological history of which the work of the last six months has thrown a flood of light." . . . Further observation, as will be narrated, indicates it to be a *corticated protozoon*, probably related closely to the organisms found by Lewis and others in the blood of healthy rats and hamsters. . . . and Crookshank in the blood of horses, mules, and camels suffering from a disease known as *surra*. Crookshank also found the *surra* organisms in healthy rats in England, and assigns them, and probably also the fish parasites, to the genus *Trichomonas sanguinis*; this new blood protozoon, which I have succeeded in cultivating, will probably be found to belong to the same genus. As to the source of infection, a pregnant hint has been given by the discovery in numerous samples of Chefoo milk of the organism, usually in such enormous numbers that the sample resembled a pure culture of the protozoon, mixed with a few fat globules. This reminded me that in the summer of 1895 a cattle plague of great virulence raged throughout Shantung; the disease was characterised by the symptoms of *surra*. Most of the affected cattle died, but some survived; and it seems likely that the parasite would persist in the blood of these (as it does in the human convalescent from non-malarial remittent fever), infect the milk, and so its consumer. This is rendered the more likely by the further remarkable fact that boiling the milk for half an hour on three successive days does not destroy the parasites—is, in fact, an excellent method of obtaining a pure cultivation of infested milk." The last two sentences certainly contain very remarkable statements. Having thus classified the parasite as a *corticated protozoon*, with an "oral aperture" and "projectile organ," Dr. Von Tuzelmann in an Addendum dated October, 1897, writes: "I find that the mobile blood parasites are not protozoons, as erroneously stated above, but the *zoogonidia* of a fungus spore," and asks his readers to consider the "oral apertures" and "projectile organs" wherever referred to as "germ pores" and "germ tubules." These changes of opinion are more serious than Dr. Von Tuzelmann appears to realise, for, before a particular organism can be demonstrated as the exciting cause of a disease, it is first essential to determine

the character of the organism in question so that the discoverer himself can always identify it, and others can do the like. Without surer means of identification than "germ pores" and "germ tubules" which may be mistaken for "oral apertures" and "projectile organs" an observer would be very much at sea.

For the first time a report appears from Soochow. Dr. Park writes: "Malaria abounded and continues to abound," and after some remarks on this subject, he adds, "let not those who are thinking of coming to Soochow be deterred by these remarks on ague, but, as some one has said, we get so soaked with it, we rarely have anything more dangerous, pneumonia, typhus fever, typhoid fever, etc., being so far unknown among us. . . . The health record from missionaries, too, who have resided in Soochow since early in the seventies, is very good."

Dr. Henry Layng reports on the health of Swatow for eighteen months ended 31st March, 1897. Writing of the bubonic plague epidemic at Chaoyang (2,000 deaths) and Haimen (1,200 deaths) he says: "In the port of Swatow cases of plague occurred, but never in sufficient numbers to amount to an epidemic. The disease showed itself in the same districts as in the previous year and often in the same houses. The disease has not shown any signs of spreading to the districts north and north-east of the port, the infected area in both years being to the south-west. From reports now to hand, we shall probably find it again epidemic in 1897 in the districts to the south-west and south-east." An epidemic of influenza is also recorded, and the occurrence of malarial fever is referred to—usually of intermittent and not of severe type.

Dr. Ringer's report on Canton is for the year ended 31st March, 1897. He writes, "On reviewing my notes of the cases of sickness which occurred among the foreign community at this port during the past 12 months, I find that fevers of different kinds hold a prominent position. The endeavour to classify these, however, is attended with some difficulty and with the present statistics it is impossible to say how far the locality, and climate, have impressed some of the cases with a special and peculiar type. Taking a series of 25 cases at different times of the year, I find they may be arranged in the following manner:—

Remittent malarial fever	8
Intermittent " "	6
Febriola	6
Typhoid fever	3
Typho-malarial fever	2

A few cases of influenza occurred in the autumn. Plague was epidemic among the Chinese in the spring and summer of '96 but was said not to be so severe as in '94. An outbreak of small-pox took place in the winter months. Four births, one death from pneumonia, and one death from small-pox occurred.

Of Pakhoi, Dr. Deane says, "The health of the foreign residents and native population during the above mentioned period has been generally satisfactory and no special occurrences have to be reported."

"The Health and Vigour of an individual depend upon the quantity and quality of the blood. When the tissues have been at work, there are thrown into the blood waste products, and if these be not eliminated but (through any cause) detained in the blood they influence nutrition and function and finally produce organic disease."—*The Humanitarian*. In cases of Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, the effects of Clarke's Blood Mixture are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Clarke's Blood Mixture is sold everywhere, at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes. tf 7

Outports.

COREA

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE BRITISH FLEET

now lying at anchor in Chemulpo leaves to-day, all sail, with the exception of the *Iphigenia*. This move is most unexpected and no one appears to know just what it means.

POLITICAL.

It is announced on good authority that Mr. McLeavy Brown has made a contract with Mr. Alexeieff to remain at the head of the Customs for three years. The all-powerful Cho Pyeng-sik, who was Russia's chief tool in recent movements, has been stripped of his offices and with him have fallen other high lights of the same constellation. The mint is now in the hands of the Russians and a Russian manager has gone to Chemulpo to assume charge of the minting operations.

10th February.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE BRITISH FLEET.

After a six weeks' visit the British Fleet has left again for Nagasaki, leaving only the *Iphigenia* to take care of Chemulpo. Before leaving, however, a number of the officers gave a musical and variety entertainment, under the patronage of Rear-Admiral Fitzgerald, the proceeds of which were given to the English Church Mission. It was the first of the kind ever held in Chemulpo and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, a number of people coming down from Seoul for the purpose.

AN END OF MOURNING.

After more than two years mourning the natives will again don black hats and coloured garments. The limit of mourning has been put off so frequently that it was thought they would be compelled to wear white hats for the remainder of the century, but at last there is to be an end of this and (as far as clothing is concerned) Korea is permitted to go back to its old ways.

RUMOURS AND FACTS.

All sorts of rumours are in the air. One is that the Russian Fleet will pay us a visit in a few days and another that the Japanese Fleet will stop at Chemulpo on its way to Weihaiwei. They are, however, only reports, nothing definite being known. A contract has been signed between Mr. MacLeavy Brown and Mr. Alexeieff by which the former is to manage the Customs for a period of three years, the latter not to interfere with the administration. Mr. Legrille has arrived, who will survey the railway from Wiju on the frontier to Seoul, for which the French have obtained a concession, and two Germans have arrived by the same steamer who are to go prospecting about Korea for mines. The Council of State have lately passed a resolution by which no more concessions are to be granted to foreigners.

11th February.

ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL preserves and strengthens the hair, prevents it falling off or turning grey, and is the best brilliantine for everybody's use, and as a small bottle lasts a very long time it is really most economical for general use; also golden colour for fair hair. ROWLAND'S KALYDOR is most soothing, cooling and healing for the face and hands; removes freckles, tan, sunburn, redness, &c., and produces soft, fair skin. Sold by chemists. Ask for ROWLAND'S, of 20, Hatton Garden, London.

HINGHUA, FUKIEN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE GROWTH OF THE COMMUNITY.

Half a year has sped away since your readers heard from this part of Fukien. Since then the little community of one has increased more than twenty-fold. This is progress by the score. However, the number of really new faces is not so very large after all. Among them we count Miss Lebeus, an accomplished German lady who holds two diplomas that at once secure her a welcome—one that of a Pharmacist, and the other of a trained nurse. She arrived early in the autumn and is connected with the Methodist Mission. Not less welcome than Miss Lebeus is Dr. Sampson who arrived about a month ago and is connected with the Church Mission—a timely reinforcement for Dr. van Someren Taylor's growing medical work. Dr. Taylor has been greatly burdened with the erection of two hospital buildings (one for men and one for women), and the community rejoices with him over the arrival of his energetic young friend. The opening of these hospitals, at a not distant date, let us hope, should form the subject of a special letter for your columns.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

Among the noteworthy events, I should mention the opening of a telegraph station six miles east of the city at a place called Hangkang (also Angtao) in response to petitions drawn up by the missionaries, I believe. Thus, after staring curiously at the "iron thread" for nearly a lifetime the people are at last given an opportunity to see what it's for. For two days messages to Foochow, and replies, were forwarded gratuitously, but how many of these ever-busy people availed themselves of the opportunity your correspondent has not learned. That the line has sufficient business to make it valuable is indicated by the recent addition of a third wire, though its value may consist almost entirely in its importance to the Government.

THE KIAOCHOU AFFAIR.

The people have heard of the German stroke (not merely a *Schwabenstreich*) at Kiaochou and naturally (though very quietly) ask; what next? Every one jogs along about as usual while conversation turns on the immediate future of the dynasty. Two years ago such an event would have caused intense excitement, but even the Chinese can become indifferent to, let us not say wars and rumours of wars—but to changes and rumours of changes.

PUBLIC CAUTION.

Quite a freak of public suspicion noticed here is the rejection of the small silver coins produced at Foochow. Some claim that the pieces are "light," others that they contain too much copper, and again others confess they do not know why they prefer the Canton ten-cent and twenty-cent pieces, unless it be on the ground that nothing good can originate so near home.

THE PUBLIC WEAL.

There has been much sickness recently among the people in the form of chills and fever. On the whole however there seems to be a good degree of prosperity enjoyed by all classes; prices are comparatively high and wages gradually rising. I have recently seen a new wayside shrine, and many temples are undergoing repairs. Also a large bridge that has been lying in ruins since time immemorial is being restored.

CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY.

The Christians in this region are not to be out-done by their wealthier and more numerous neighbours, and recently dedicated the second large church (built largely with native money) inside the city walls. The impressive services were attended by the members of both Protestant missions who formed a large and interesting audience.

The Rev. Chas. Shaw, missionary in charge of the C. M. S. in this place, received the hearty congratulations of his Christian co-workers on the completion of this important enterprise. The Rev. Mr. Martin of Foochow preached the dedication sermon, the same being interpreted into Hinghua by the C. M. S. pastor at Singiu. Mrs. Shaw with characteristic kindness provided a bountiful repast for the Europeans who took part in the services. It was decidedly a day of good things, both spiritually and otherwise, and will long be remembered by both natives and foreigners.

NATIVE NEWS.

The native New Year holidays came and went with less than the usual amount of noise and nonsense. The people seem to be getting some idea of the value of time and don't go out of their way to find leisure. The two district magistrates of the prefecture have just been changed to the regret of many of the better class of people. Both of the retiring officials were highly respected and seem to be men who have some knowledge of the situation in the Empire.

1st February.

KIUKIANG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

JUDICIAL MURDER.

Another of the priests imprisoned at Kiukiang in connection with the Russian purchase of land in the Lu mountains has died. Just as he was about to die the officials took him to the temple and he died as soon as he reached there. This put the expense of the dead man's burial on the temple instead of the *yamen*. This makes a total of three who have died: the other two are very ill and will not stand the rigours of gaol life much longer.

11th February.

LINCHING, SHANTUNG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

FINANCIAL TROUBLES.

It would seem as if there were some ugly rocks ahead of the Chinese government, financially. For the last few months the rate of silver has been abnormally low, cash reckoning only 1,120 to the tael instead of 1,500 as has been the average for many years. This is a fall of more than 25 per cent, and at present there is not much likelihood of a change for the better, though "something" may be hoped for with the opening of navigation. The trouble comes from the fact that while the government pays out its money in one kind of currency, the user must pay for all he buys in brass cash and the purchasing power of this last has not changed except for the worse. Take the military for example: the pay of the men has, we know, been screwed down to the lowest notch by their officers and any further reduction must result, not as in others lands in inferior service, but in a further reduction of the force. Hence we must expect either an increase in the pay or a still larger number of soldiers on paper. Probably in other parts of the country the rate of exchange has not fallen as much as it has at this particular place; but even a cut of 20 per cent in the civil service of such a country as China is at present, would give cause for alarm.

ELECTRIC TROUBLES.

It is our opinion that there is something the matter with the electric fluid here in China. A few weeks ago the writer received a telegram from another telegraph station in North-China which left that place at 11 a.m. and reached this city at 7 p.m. the next day. The Chinese who once explained to a crowd that a message could

be sent from here to Peking (750 *li*) in half a day really exaggerated after all.

SOLAR TROUBLES.

We had a total eclipse of the sun here on the 22nd, the clouds preventing the least glimpse. It did not however prevent the temples from banging away as usual—and at the wrong hour.

LABOUR TROUBLES.

Whenever anyone wishes to talk in regard to wages we have a story to tell. In the neighbouring city of Tungch'angfu, one of the main industries is the manufacture of fire-crackers. Of course, it is all, or nearly all, piece-work. One part of the work is to put in the fuses after the "cracker" is made. These are served up in what are called "plates," there being 560 in each plate. Now, for putting in the fuses in the said 560 crackers, the pay is one cash. By working hard all day and into the night, an expert can make 20 cash! Next.

28th January.

MOUKDEN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE POWER OF FROST.

One of the facts that are ineffaceably cut into my memory during my first winter in Newchwang was the finding on one morning about New Year's time 35 masses of ice, each mass having been a living man at 10 p.m. the preceding night. The thermometer was a good bit below zero (Fahr.). The men had just left the opium dens where they had been enjoying themselves. The keen air sent them to sleep and they never wakened.

THE POLAR BALLOON.

Ever since the attempt to cross or reach the north pole in a balloon was broached in the home papers those thirty-five frozen masses of humanity have flitted across my uneasy mind's eye. In a sledge or a boat the man has to work, and that, while he is awake, keeps his healthy blood aglow. By night he can make himself a snow hut where in his furs he can sleep in safety and cook his scanty food. But seated without protection, without the need or the possibility of hard labour, is it conceivable that any man could pass through twenty-four hours in safety? He can sleep—a delicious sleep like what one can imagine the sleep of the opium smoker. But can he awake again? The little box at the bottom of that balloon could accommodate one—or two at a crush—and if all sleep, were warranted to be taken there, it is conceivable that the peril would be overcome. But who can guarantee that the man or men exposed to the intensely sedative effects of the keen air never able to creep up anything near zero, would continue awake? It was surely a wild venture.

THE "HUNGHUS."

Some clever London papers have been laughing at the discovery by the Russians of a new tribe in Manchuria called the *Hunghus*, on account of whom Russia had to send forward some detachments of soldiers to protect their countrymen now on Chinese soil. The *Hunghus* have long established their name and their reputation in Manchuria and they have given and will give occasions enough for Russian interference whenever that interference is agreeable to Russia. From the time when Formosa was in Dutch hands the *Hunghus* have been known in China. For the "Red-bearded" barbarian has always been a terror to the peaceful Chinese agriculturist. As mounted robbers are, next to the foreigner, the most dreadful of the human race, the term *Hunghus* has been borrowed from the foreigner's face and applied to the black heads of the mounted robbers. Mounted robbers have ever been active in Manchuria,

Their activity is more or less intermittent and the field of their operations more or less extended according to the character of the high officials—civil and military—in charge of Manchuria. While

GENERAL TSO

who was killed at Pingyang was over the forces of southern Manchuria the *Hungkus* dared not show themselves anywhere within his jurisdiction. They found shelter in the forest and plunder on the roads of the Kirin province. The province of Heilungchiang, co-terminous with Siberia, provides excellent accommodation but presents a limited scope for their energies. The further south they can come the more profitable to them. They are a sort of Robin Hood, however. They meddle not with the poor and they leave foreigners severely alone, as they are well aware of the exceptional amount of fuss there will be if they endeavour to lay hands on the person or property of a foreigner.

GOLD.

has at length been found in well-paying quantities. Over 2,000 men are employed in one valley a little more than a hundred miles east of this city. Elsewhere companies of a few score men are found here and there along the high sandy or gravelly banks of streams, diligently shovelling away, making holes enough and finding enough gold to keep them at the work. But the far more valuable coal and iron regions are left neglected.

THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

was clearly visible here as was that of last year. Up till then we have had an abnormally mild winter. To-day snow is on the ground accompanied by a cold wind which may throw the thermometer below zero further than it has yet been. Whether the dog which was trying to eat the sun was able to eat away some of its heat I am not in a position to say. But the mild weather seems to have come to an end for a time.

27th January.

NGANLUFU, HUPEH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A TRIPLE EXECUTION.

On the morning of January the 16th the city was in a state of great excitement, when it became known that four men were to be beheaded that day. Long before the appointed time a great crowd had collected on the execution ground, waiting the arrival of the mandarins and criminals. The four criminals were condemned for breaking into a house 30 *li* from the city, stealing a cow and 9,000 cash, and what made their crime far more serious, with grievously wounding an old widow, the sole occupant on the night of the robbery. One of the four, a coolie, had all along protested his innocence and did so again on his way to execution, but his protest was unavailing. It was expected that he would speedily come under the executioner's sword. When on the execution ground to the surprise of every one, the other three confessed that they alone were guilty and that the fourth man was quite innocent. He was simply a coolie they had engaged to carry their things and knew nothing of the unlawful work in which they were employed. The magistrate questioned them closely and in the end sent the coolie back to his *yamen*, where he now awaits a fresh trial.

A BUNGLING EXECUTIONER.

The execution of the three was then proceeded with. It was carried out in a barbarous bungling Chinese fashion, as related to me by an eye-witness, and is too horrible for full description. Each of the victims received between ten to twenty sword cuts; some fell about their ears, and others across the shoulders of the poor wretches: then the officials and executioner

thinking their work was completed returned to the city. After they had gone, one of the three men spoke and asked the bystanders to

PUT HIS HEAD STRAIGHT.

This piece of news was carried to the executioner who after some delay returned and finally dispatched his victim. The explanation given by some of the natives is that the executioner was touched by the honesty of the three men because they testified to the innocence of the coolie and had no heart to strike a decisive blow.

AN UNJUST JUDGE.

The magistrate is being removed; he is disliked by everybody; report says he is disrespectful to his superiors, very severe with the men holding various positions in his *yamen* and very cruel to any unfortunate who appear in his court. The immediate cause of his removal is because he judged a case of robbery wrongly. A man had been robbed on a boat of silver and other things to the value of several hundred taels. For some unknown reason this eccentric magistrate wished to minimise the case and bring it in as one of petty theft and not one of robbery. He beat the man who was robbed because he persisted in telling the simple truth that he had been robbed, and afterwards put him in prison. This was rather too much for the man's friends, who went to the prefect and brought him to enquire into the case.

THE PREFECT'S INTERVENTION.

He promised to do so and instructed the *hsien* to send the prisoners over to his *yamen* for examination. Before sending them the *hsien* called the man who had been robbed before him and told him to tell the prefect that it was a simple case of theft and on no account was he to say that he had been robbed. He also promised to give him 2,000 blows on his return should he say the word "robbed."

AFRAID TO TELL THE TRUTH.

When the man was before the prefect and asked to make his statement, he hesitated and began to cry. The prefect asked him why he was crying and the man replied, "I dare not tell you." The prefect encouraged him and told him not to be afraid, and then the man said that he really had been robbed, but the *hsien* had promised him 2,000 blows on his return if he told the truth. The prefect was very indignant and instead of sending the man back, he committed him to the care of another official, the *king'ing*, and decided to report the *hsien*'s action to the provincial authorities.

THE PREFECT'S INDIGNATION.

The *hsien* soon tried to patch matters up and went to see the prefect. The prefect told him that officials were supposed to protect their people and punish evildoers, but he (the *hsien*) had beaten a wronged and innocent man and promised him 2,000 blows should he speak the truth! Having said this, he walked out of the guest room leaving the *hsien* in a very unpleasant position. His subsequent attempts to pacify the prefect were unavailing and according to present report he leaves in a few weeks. A few days after the above affair the prefect arranged to start for Topawon to superintend the repairing of the breach in the Han river embankment, which for two years had caused calamity and scarcity over a large part of the prefecture. The *hsien*, wishing to atone for past misdeeds, or perhaps to gain future favours, was very solicitous about knowing the day and the time of the prefect's departure, so that he might escort him to the boat. The prefect, however, did not desire the *hsien*'s escort and told him he had arranged to start on the 16th, having really arranged to start on the 14th; the *hsien* knew this was not true so on the morning of the 14th he went outside the city and waited the arrival of the prefect to escort him down to the river. Very soon the prefect appeared and when he saw the *hsien*'s chair and retinue in the dis-

tance, turned down a side street and by a roundabout way returned to his *yamen*, and did not go down the river till nine o'clock in the evening.

NOT WANTED.

So the people say that it will be better if the *hsien* goes, and we hold the same opinion. He is no friend of foreigners or missionaries. We hope the change will be for the better—it cannot be for the worse.

26th January.

TIENTSIN.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE ABNORMAL WEATHER

continues here, and there is every prospect of an early opening of navigation. The state of the river is doubtful, as no boat has yet been sent to take soundings, but it is thought that light draught steamers may be able to reach the Bund. The usual sub-glacial scour has been omitted this year, and it will not be surprising if more than the usual difficulties are met in consequence. In the higher tides reaches the stream is only two-thirds of its usual width; it is of course possible that this constriction has favoured scour in the actual bed, but, on the other hand, it is only too apparent that the old volume of water is not now in the stream. It is doubtless finding another issue to the sea *via* the numerous creeks and canals, the partial closure of which is an essential feature of Mr. de Linde's

SCHEME OF IMPROVEMENT.

This scheme has now been practically accepted by the Chinese and other authorities, and only awaits the official sanction of the Ministers in Peking; who have chiefly to approve the methods proposed for the raising of the Loan (£150,000) and for meeting the Interest and Sinking Fund. If these can be satisfactorily drafted there is no reason why the work should not be proceeded with at once. The winter up to date has been

SOCIALLY DULL.

and in sad contrast to the old Tientsin Carnival. The A.D.C. up to date has done nothing, the epidemic of measles having placed some of our lady artistes *hors de combat* by transforming them into nurses. Private dances too have been at a most unprecedented premium. The Cinderellas *per contra* have been extremely popular and have been largely patronised. The devotees of Terpsichore have formed themselves into a Society, and all agree that the meetings are most enjoyable as a consequence of a more rigid organisation. The field sports too have been a great success, three gymkhanas having been held at the Race Course and excellent provision made for serious and comic racing. The handsome Cup generously presented by Mr. F. Aglen as a parting gift was won by Mr. Hunt's *Last Toast*, owner up. The kindred sport of

POLO

has also taken a firm hold on the community; and large numbers of the fair and un-fair turn out weekly to see the games and matches in the Recreation Ground. The latter now makes a 'brava show with its completed Anderson-Pavilion. Association Football disputes with Polo the honours of the Ground; the *Rattlers* having more than accounted for themselves *vis-à-vis* Tientsin in the nimble pursuit of the leather. It is not to be omitted that Tientsin sacrificed its first leg in this direction—Mr. Wyseall of Tongshan being the unfortunate victim. The pluck and *sang-froid* this gentleman displayed over the incident was very characteristic of the North of Trent.

SKATING AND CURLING

have not caught on as usual this year, though the Rink is bigger and better than ever and is admirably looked after. The

phenomenally sunny, warm weather makes skating under cover seem unseasonable, and doubtless measles rampant has also had something to do with the marked absence of the youngsters. Things are mending a little in this respect for this week we have had both the Boys' and Girls' Schools reopened after a three weeks' closure. As regards other sports, Ice Boating and the Debating Society seem as dead as the Heptarchy.

SMOKING CONCERTS

are however going strong. The Committee volunteered to furnish a ward of the Victoria Jubilee Hospital by the contributions of the smokers; and it is pleasing to record that the first circulating hat produced \$250 for this object. At the last public meeting on the Hospital affairs, Mr. James Wilson generously offered to equip a ward at his sole expense. The Chairman very appropriately remarked that from Mr. Wilson's antecedents he was not a bit surprised; public spirit and generosity are still running in strong flood in Tientsin. There is no doubt that the Hospital will evolve from a very nothing into a substantial entity during the current year. The Smoking Concert witnessed the first prominent appearance in the Port of the Gramophone (? Grammaphone): this ingenious and beautiful toy made a great sensation. Its accurate and loud intrications and the very funny nature of its song repertory both astounded and delighted the audience. It was introduced as "Mr. V. E. P. Nihil"—which, we take it, is an adaptation of a well-known Latin phrase. It was brought to Tientsin by Mr. House, the new manager of our

PALATIAL TEMPERANCE HALL.

Mr. House is doing capital work among the *Rattlers* and is also trying by concerts and otherwise to furnish the new building. The blue-jackets gave a capital and characteristic concert last week to the great benefit of the pleasure-seeker and the equipment account. The *Rattler* herself is 8 or 10 miles down stream, but 50 odd of the crew are up here in barracks. Sir Claude Macdonald is expected down to take a part in the formal opening of the new building. We have now in Tientsin the analogue to the

"MUEZZIN'S" CALL TO PRAYER

in a fine Anglican Bell which can be heard all over the Concessions. It is the first promise that in the not distant future we shall have a grand peal calling the just to their devotions in the forthcoming All Saints' Church. It is curious that the modern saints so seldom choose bells but prefer the bare and unesthetic tomb stones to commemorate their virtues. It has often occurred to your correspondent that a slab in a belfry, would be less bare-faced than a stone in a cemetery, if it stated that the A Flat was presented in memory of John Smith, the C to perpetuate the name of William Snooks, etc., etc. Just think of the harmony of such memorials; they would replace bragging falsehood, they would create a really fine tone in the neighbourhood, and how they would appeal to posterity!

8th February.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."—If the blood is laden with impurities it spreads disease as it circulates through the organs of the human body—Lungs, Heart, Stomach, Kidneys, Brain. Clarke's World-famed Blood Mixture is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from whatever cause arising. For Scrofula, Scoury, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of all kinds its effects are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sold everywhere at 2s. 9d. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

LONDON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE FAR EASTERN QUESTION

stands pretty much where it did a week ago. Mr. Balfour has seized the opportunity to explain in a speech to his constituents the attitude of the British Government in regard to Germany's "lease" of Kiaochou, and the quartering of Russian ships at Port Arthur; but he had nothing startling to tell us. The policy of the Government as explained by Mr. Balfour is just what reasonable people expected. Our interests in China are commercial, not territorial. We do not see any necessity to quarrel with Germany about Kiaochou, and we do not propose to steal a bit of China in order to be even with Germany. But we mean to safe-guard our commercial interests.

With regard to

OUR OTHER FOREIGN COMPLICATIONS,

the revolt in Beluchistan of which the first intelligence reached us two days ago has naturally increased our anxiety. In some quarters, too, there is a growing fear that the accounts which have reached us from the frontier have put much too rosy a complexion on the state of affairs there. The continental papers have of course for a long time been expressing their admiration for the *sangfroid* with which we have accepted our "beating" at the hands of the frontier tribes; and without, of course, going to anything like such a length as this, some of us at home are beginning to fear that comparatively little progress has yet been made with the task of "restoring order" on the frontier. There will doubtless be some heated discussions in Parliament on our Indian policy as soon as the session opens. With regard to the hill campaign we are still in a state of expectancy.

THE REBUFF TO THE PRESS.

For the moment the most interesting point in connection with this question is the announcement of Sir Herbert Kitchener that only one correspondent—*Reuter's*—would be allowed to accompany the troops in their advance. This *ukase* has naturally created great indignation in the newspaper offices, which has been most loudly voiced by the *Daily Telegraph*. That journal has, however, just announced that its protests have had their effect, and that the Marquis of Salisbury has interposed and induced Sir Herbert to modify his objectionable decree.

BY-ELECTIONS.

The two most interesting of the eight pending by-elections have taken place in the past two days at Plymouth and York. As I pointed out in a previous letter these two elections afforded the Government the most favourable opportunities they could possibly have for winning seats from the Opposition, for they are both two-membered constituencies in which the representation was divided between a Liberal and a Conservative. The Conservative was in each case at the top of the poll, and in each case it was the death of the Liberal junior member which created the vacancy. Thus both at Plymouth and at York the Liberal candidate was in the anomalous position of having to pull down a Tory majority in order to retain a Liberal seat. At Plymouth the Liberal candidate, Mr. Mendl, has succeeded in this task, but at York Sir Christopher Furness has failed, Lord Charles Beresford having captured the seat for the Conservatives with a majority of eleven votes. Whether the Government is altogether pleased at Lord Charles's success is another question. Lord Charles is a very candid friend to the Government, not always disposed to give implicit obedience to the whip, and the addition of two votes to their already enormous majority may be somewhat dearly bought by his return.

THE LAW COURTS

have just opened after the Christmas vacation with more than one *cause célèbre*, foremost among which is the action brought by a money-lender against Sir Tatton and Lady Sykes to recover several thousands of pounds on five promissory notes alleged to be signed by them. The main outlines of the scandal have of course been public property for months past. It was perfectly well known that Sir Tatton would repudiate liability on the ground that his signature had been forged by his wife. At the stage which it has reached the case is a very puzzling one. Lady Sykes has given her evidence, swearing that her husband signed all the notes, and has gone bravely through the ordeal of cross-examination. She has had to admit to big indulgences in betting and other extravagances; and on the face of it, it is difficult to understand why a man with sixteen thousand a year, and a man who is described by his wife as close-fisted rather than extravagant, should borrow money at sixty per cent. But on the other hand, Sir Tatton's manner in the witness-box, and his admissions, have gone far to corroborate his wife's description of his unbusinesslike character and unreliability of memory.

ART.

To the admirable show of Millais's pictures now on view at the Royal Academy, and the fine display of paintings of all ages and countries at the New Gallery, another more or less interesting art exhibition has just been added. This is a show of Mr. Sellar's collection of old masters, at the Grafton Gallery. Mr. Sellar, it may be remembered, recently offered a portion of this collection to the Corporation of London, to form the nucleus for a permanent art gallery for the City. The Corporation accepted the offer subject to a favourable report from Sir E. J. Poynter and the Director of the Guildhall Art Gallery. But, alas!

THE REPORT WAS UNFAVOURABLE,

and the offer was declined. Mr. Sellar, indignant at this slur upon his judgment as a collector, has given the public an opportunity of seeing the pictures, and yesterday the art critics of the newspapers were invited to a private view. Poor Mr. Sellar has received but scant sympathy at their hands. They do not find it necessary to praise Sir Edward Poynter very highly for his exercise of judgment. They say the veriest novice could tell at a glance that the pictures were not by the great masters to whom Mr. Sellar attributes them. Indeed one critic goes so far as to suggest that all these old masters of the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries are the work of one man, who is in all probability still in the land of the living. People would feel more sympathy for Mr. Sellar, who has no doubt distinguished himself by generosity as well as simplicity, if they had not learned that he tried to sell these pictures at Christie's and failed to get anything like decent prices for them, before he offered them to the City.

THE MURDERER OF MR. TERRISS

is to be detained at Broadmoor during Her Majesty's pleasure. Many sympathisers with the distinguished actor are indignant that his assassin is to escape the gallows; but in view of the agreement of three distinguished physicians that Prince was unaccountable for his actions, the jury had of course no option but to condemn him to the criminal lunatic asylum.

KENSINGTON PALACE.

It will be good news to all lovers of old London, and loyal subjects of her Majesty, that an agreement has been come to between the Queen and the Government by which the repair and restoration of Kensington Palace will be undertaken at the public expense, in consideration of Her Majesty giving up the little royal palace

at Kew for public purposes. Under this arrangement Kensington Palace itself will, to some extent, be devoted to the public, for it is proposed that the State rooms, when restored, shall be converted into a royal museum of the Victorian, Georgian, and late Stuart eras. The public will doubtless, too, have an opportunity of seeing the room in which Queen Victoria was born.

OBITUARY.

The Royal Academy has suffered another severe loss in the death of Mr. H. Stacy Marks, R.A., whose quaint bird pictures have given delight to thousands. Death has also removed Sir Robert Meade, late permanent Under-Secretary for the Colonies, Mr. Ernest Hart, the distinguished editor of the *British Medical Journal*, and Mrs. Cowden Clarke, the friend of Dickens and Lamb.

14th January.

Mertings

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council held in the Board Room, No. 23, Kiangle Road, Shanghai, on Wednesday, the 9th February, 1898, at 4 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. A. R. Burkill, (Chairman), F. Anderson, J. S. Fearon, E. A. Hewett, Rev. J. H. Hykes, J. Prentice, M. Rohde, J. Welch, the Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary.

The *Summons* calling the meeting is taken as read.

The *Minutes* of last meeting are read, confirmed, signed by the Chairman, and passed for publication.

Cash Statement for the past week is submitted, and cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

Return of Prisoners apprehended and police daily reports for the past week are submitted.

Markets.—Report by the Inspector for January is submitted, stating that the markets and butchers' shops have been visited daily and all the meats carefully inspected. The beef offered for sale throughout the month has been of good quality, and the supply of live stock adequate to the demand; mutton continues to improve, both in quality, and quantity; fish has been scarce and of poor quality. Vegetables have not been in good supply, and the fruit poor; game and wild fowl have been in fair supply and moderate prices prevailed.

The number of animals slaughtered at the Abattoir consisted of 869 oxen, 1,633 sheep, 106 calves, and 80 pigs, and the fee collected from various sources amounted to \$270.37, and the cattlehead fees to \$770.40.

Native Livery Stables.—Report for January by the Inspector is submitted, stating that the different stables have been regularly visited during the month, and the ponies found in good condition and free from disease.

642 carriages and 815 ponies have been licensed for February, as against 641 carriages and 817 ponies for January.

4,570 jinrickshas, and 4,802 wheelbarrows have been licensed for the current month.

Sanitary Department.—*Health Officer.*—The following Report for January is ordered to be published:—

MONTHLY REPORT.

Health Officer and Municipal Surgeon's Report for January, 1898.

Deaths registered in the foreign community in January:—

	1898.	1897.
Small-pox	0	3
Typhoid fever	0	2
Total from all causes	7	14
Death rate per 1,000 ...	13.7	27.4

Deaths registered among Chinese inhabiting the Settlement North of the Yangkingpang in January:—

	1898.	1897.
Small-pox	0	56
Total from all causes	211	260

Infectious Diseases Notification:—The following is the total number of cases reported as occurring in the foreign community during the four weeks ending Saturday, 29th January:—

Diphtheria	5
Typhoid fever	6
Dysentery	2
Influenza	9

In all twenty-one reports were received.

Police Sick Returns:—

One Chinese constable certified as unfit for further service.

Other Municipal Employees under treatment during the month—19; of these two were sent to Hospital.

Police Recruits:—

	Examined.	Passed.	Rejected.
Foreigners	6	6	0
Indians	1	1	0

Police Cases:—January 25th, the body of a foreign woman examined, a supposed case of suicide by drowning. The body recovered from the river after apparently some weeks' immersion.

Lock Hospital:—

	1st Week.	2nd Week.	3rd Week.	4th Week.
In patients	6	6	7	7
Out patients	125	130	123	68

Vaccination Station:—The stock of lymph being sufficient to meet the present demand no other calves were vaccinated in January. I propose to vaccinate another calf in February.

Laboratory:—Cultivations were made from 18 specimens taken from the throats of patients thought to be suffering from diphtheria; the micro-organism characteristic of this disease was found in 5 of these.

Eight specimens of blood taken from patients suspected to be suffering from typhoid fever were examined; in four of these the diagnosis was confirmed.

January 28th, a specimen of milk suspected to be adulterated was examined and reported on.

Sanitary Board—clothes Washing Establishments.—The annexed letter and Report are ordered to be published:—

Shanghai, 4th February, 1898.

SIR,—At the last meeting of the Sanitary Board, Captain Mackenzie, Mr. Mayne, and I were requested to visit the Chinese establishments for washing Foreign clothing with a view to reporting on their condition, the report to form a basis of recommendation for action on the part of the Council, need for which has ever been looked upon by this and past Sanitary Boards as most urgent. I have therefore the honour to forward you the result of that inspection.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

N. MACLEOD.

Chairman, Sanitary Board.

J. O. P. BLAND, Esq.,

Secretary, Shanghai Municipal Council.

Report on Chinese Wash-houses for the Washing of Foreign Clothing.

The attention of previous Councils and the public has been repeatedly called to this matter by the Health Officer and the Sanitary Board but without obvious, permanent, beneficial result, with the exception of a few households which have their washing done at home. In 1894 the then members of the Sanitary Board combined with some others to bring pressure to bear on this washing question and induced one of the washermen to arrange for everything satisfactorily, even to the signing of a lease, when the interference of the combined washermen put a stop to the projected improvement.

Perhaps the best summary of the result of the inspection of washing houses made at the instance of the Sanitary Board at its last meeting will be furnished by following the soiled clothing in its adventures from the time it leaves till it returns clean to the owner. Soiled articles of clothing, linen, etc., are tied up in bundles and carried thus or in baskets to the wash-houses which are the washermen's dwelling-houses. Until the baskets are next required, they are used in some instances as

cradles for the infant of the household wrapped in its in-hes thick of dirty clothing. Five infants were seen so cradled. The soiled articles have to be deposited somewhere until they are washed, and the only places which they can occupy is the floor or a bed. The floor of the place in which washing is done is almost always of earth and filthy is a mild term to apply to its condition and everything thereon. The articles to be washed may be seen to be soaked and wrung out of water, one of the constituents of which is soap, and by the time that the list of a large number of articles have been wrung out of the six or eight inches of this liquid contained in the bottom of a small kong, the remaining mixture must be a highly complex one and anything but clean. What remains of this mixture in these articles is by and by removed with the help of the washing stones and the water of the neighbouring pond or creek. The best of these ponds, 120 x 100, roughly estimated, had 34 washing stones at its margin, and is separated by a pathway a few feet broad from the creek supplying it. A couple of sluices beneath the roadway admits the water to the pond from the creek the surface of which near the sluices was covered by a scum of vegetable and other matters emanating from 50 beggar boats anchored to the bank and on each other. This pond furnishes the water supply to some twenty washing-houses in its neighbourhood and may be regarded as distinctly the best water supply of all the Hongkew washermen. In most cases the water at the houses was settled with alum in kongs before being used. Wrung out of pond or creek water the clothes are dried in the open air in fine weather; in wet weather they are dried in the houses chiefly in the room where ironing and starching are carried on, a room almost invariably occupied as a bedroom. The beds used in these houses are wooden planks with mats and quilts for bedding, each of these, especially the quilts, competing with one another in dirtiness. The cotton removed from one of these quilts is scarcely recognisable as such. Quilts last long. Linen, etc., soiled and clean, find a frequent resting place on these beds. In the 51 establishments visited were only two mangles seen. The beds are the ironing tables in most instances. The worker, having spread out the shirt or other article to be ironed, dips his mouth and often the tip of his nose into a dish of water, sucks up and squirts the mouthful over the shirt front and having ironed it deposits the finished article in a cupboard if there be one, in most instances on a neighbouring bed. After being stored in the house of the worker for a longer or shorter period, the cleaned articles are sent home in the baskets previously referred to. At the door of one of the places first inspected were seen a number of towels drying on the ground at the edge of a stinking open drain with garbage scattered around. These towels are no doubt destined to wipe clean hands and faces.

Of 4 Hongkew establishments visited every one uses pond or creek water. I was assured of this by washermen themselves even as they handed to me their cards on which it was stated that only waterworks water was used. These men could not read their own cards which in many instances are made up by middlemen for advertising purposes. Of the 11 wash-houses visited in the neighbourhood of the Carter Road 9 are similarly supplied with water. The Washing Co. alone has Waterworks water laid on.

The Washing Co. is distinctly the best place inspected, but even here the clothes were found on the beds which were also used as ironing tables and men were seen asleep on beds in both ironing and washing rooms. The Washing Co. and one other wash-house has a stone floor.

The houses with scarcely a single exception were filthy, some of them to a degree beyond conception, drainage there is none, overcrowding is common, every member of the family has access to every room in their filthy winter clothing, the floors in the great majority of cases are of earth and where they are of wood they are as dirty, no provision is or can be made to prevent infection of clean clothes by the sick.

These 51 establishments wash for foreigners only.

The application of these facts in their relation to the great bulk of the community is

half-year. The only non-interest-bearing item in the accounts now is the Bank premises account, and this we write down every half-year by charging the various offices a rental upon the premises they occupy. Our premises at the head office and at the various branches are worth a sum considerably exceeding the figure at which they now stand in our books, viz., \$971,965.66. It is our policy to own the premises we occupy at the various centres of our business, and to continue writing down their book value. Our silver current accounts show a falling off during the half-year of \$5,801,888.54. This was caused by the extreme tightness of money all over the East during nearly the whole of the latter half of 1892. This tightness first began in the Straits in consequence of shipments of silver yen to Japan, where they were exchangeable for gold yen, Japan exchange being at times as much as 10 per cent over the rates ruling in the Straits. British dollars were freely imported by the Banks in the Straits, but pending their arrival there was a great scarcity of coin in both Singapore and Penang. The change in the currency of Japan, while producing some inconvenience by tightening money in the Far East, resulted very satisfactorily to this Bank, as we were considerable holders of Japanese silver yen at the time. Hongkong and Shanghai had to face abnormally large shipments of bullion, the former to Canton and the Coast ports, the latter to the River and Gulf ports, causing temporary stringency in both markets, and high rates of interest ruled all round. Fixed deposits in silver show a slight increase during the half-year, say, \$31,739,522.12, against \$30,641,249.52 the previous six months. Current account in gold shows a decrease of £1,208,675 5s. 10d., being further withdrawals on account of Chinese Government loan money temporarily in our possession as explained by my predecessor in the chair on the last occasion when we met in this room. Our fixed deposits in gold show a slight increase viz., £2,622,738 against £2,610,278 on the 30th June last. Bills payable show an increase of \$6,285,263 14 over the previous half-year, while bills receivable on the other side show a falling off of \$3,115,482.79. Bullion in hand and in transit shows an increase of \$3,557,768, and cash a reduction of \$6,615,132.47. The increase in bills payable and bullion in transit, and the decrease in cash, show that the Bank's resources were fully occupied during the half-year, resulting in the splendid profit the report discloses. Bills discounted, loans, and credits show a decrease of \$4,011,495.53. The amount of our advances, viz. \$61,258,502, was just as much as we could afford consistent with sound banking. During the half-year the tightness of money already referred to required the most careful supervision of our funds in order to meet, as far as possible, the wants of our constituents, and this fact emphasises the wisdom of our adding largely to our reserve fund whenever we have an opportunity of doing so. We were most fortunate in not having to provide anything for losses during the period under review. Our holdings of Consols and other sterling securities are very little changed. None of our securities have been written up during the half-year, nor have we trenched upon the Chinese Government loan profits referred to at the last meeting. (Applause.) An impression recently existed that we were large holders of Chinese and Japanese securities. The facts are on the 31st of December last we had £29,000 of the former and £20,000 of the latter. Our funds were far too fully occupied in our ordinary business to permit of large investments in these stocks, good as we consider them to be. The half-year has been one of exceptional success, due in a very great measure, it is perhaps unnecessary for me to state, to the ability and untiring energy of the Chief Manager (applause), ably assisted by the Bank's Managers and

Agents and a most competent staff here and at all the branches. (Applause.) I very heartily congratulate the shareholders and all concerned on the present position and prospects of the Bank, and I am glad to say that so far the new period entered upon has been highly satisfactory. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I have no further remarks to make, but if any shareholders should desire any further information I shall be pleased to give it.

There being no questions, the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Gillies.—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I believe it is an undisputed fact that we have now arrived at our sixty-fifth half-yearly meeting, and I rejoice in saying that on no former occasion have shareholders received a more satisfactory report on the progress and prosperity of our Banking Corporation than that now presented to us, and I am sure you will all readily admit that the result of the half-year's working has more than justified the most sanguine expectations. I have listened with much interest to the speech of our worthy Chairman, and feel that we are greatly indebted to him for his very clear and concise statement regarding the movements of the money market in the East particularly in connection with silver, his careful comments on the extensive business done by the Bank, and for the assuring information respecting the very satisfactory position in which we stand with regard to our sterling and other securities. It must also be most gratifying to shareholders to find that the premises belonging to the Corporation at the many branches, including the head office, have been written down to the extremely low figure of \$971,965, a sum which is certainly far short of the value of the land only; that it is proposed to pay the usual dividend of 25s. per share and to place the large sum of \$1,000,000 to the credit of reserve fund, thereby augmenting its total to the equivalent of eight-tenths of the subscribed capital. The policy of continuing to build up the reserve fund when opportunity offers must commend itself to everyone having a genuine interest in our welfare; it increases the resources of the Bank immensely, and in a short time will place us in such a position of strength and stability as to be almost without a precedent in the annals of banking. Gentlemen, there is no better gauge of the successful working of any business than the balance sheet, and bringing this standard to bear on the returns before us, we have reason for congratulation and being satisfied with the very able and efficient control and guidance of the Board of Directors and with the skilful management of our capable and well-trained staff. Concurring fully with the recommendations of the Directors, regarding the appropriation of our profits, I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and statement of accounts for the past year. (Applause.)

Carried.

Mr. Edgar proposed the re-election of Messrs. G. B. Dodwell, R. Shewan, and R. L. Richardson as Directors, and the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Armin Haupt to the Directorate, in room of Mr. St. C. Michaelsen, who resigned his seat on leaving the colony.

Mr. C. Palmer seconded.

Carried.

Mr. Wheeler proposed the re-election of Mr. F. Henderson and Mr. C. S. Sharp as auditors.

Mr. G. C. Cox seconded.

Carried.

The Chairman—I think that concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be issued on Monday.

Mr. Lewis—Gentlemen, before we leave, I think we should express our appreciation of the very satisfactory report placed before us. I am sure you will all join with me in a hearty vote of thanks to the Board of

Directors, the Chief Manager, and the staff generally for the care and ability which has brought about such very happy results. (Applause.)

The Chairman—Mr. Lewis and gentlemen on behalf of my co-Directors and myself, the Chief Manager and the staff generally, I beg to thank you for your cordial vote of thanks.—*Hongkong Daily Press.*

Report.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LD.

REPORT

for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-ninth ordinary meeting to be held at the company's offices on Monday, the 28th of February, 1893, at twelve o'clock (noon).

The Directors have the pleasure to present their Annual Report and Statement of the Company's Accounts made up to 31st December last.

1893.—The Balance at Credit of Working Account as per last Report	\$267,164.11
Add Premia since received	3,723.14
	\$270,887.25
Deduct Claims paid in 1892	7,604.42
„ Return Premia, etc., etc.	3,329.38
	10,933.80
Balance of Profit	\$259,953.45

The Directors propose that this amount be apportioned as follows: \$133,000 as Dividend for the year, being at the rate of \$6.65 per share; \$13,803.45 as Bonus to Contributors of Premia entitled thereto; and \$113,150 to Reserve Fund, thereby increasing the same to One Million Dollars, which they trust may be approved.

1892.—The balance at the Credit of Working Account at the close of this year was \$237,802.90, which, although less than that of the preceding year, your Directors cannot but deem satisfactory, as the loss ratio of 1892 was exceptionally light.

Directors.—Messrs. A. McConachie, D. R. Sassoon, and S. C. Michaelsen have resigned during the year, and Messrs. G. Slade, D. Gubbay, and A. Haupt were invited to fill the seats of these gentlemen. These appointments will be confirmed.

It is with great regret that the Board have to announce the decease of Mr. Slade last November.

Messrs. Siebs and Dalrymple retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. Hutton Potts have audited the accounts now presented and offer themselves for re-election.

N. A. SIENES,
Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1892.

Liabilities.		\$
Capital Account	400,000.00	
Reserve Fund	1,000,000.00	
Accounts Payable—		
Dividend for 1892	\$133,000.00	
Bonus for 1892 and		
Sundries	17,433.46	
	150,433.46	
Working Account 1892—		
Balance at Credit	237,802.90	
	\$1,788,236.36	
Assets.		\$
Cash at Bankers	57,388.39	
Fixed Deposits at Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai		
Banking Corp.	195,808.08	
Chartered Bank of I.		
A. & C.	80,000.00	
Mercantile Bank of		
India, Ltd.	50,000.00	
National Bank of		
China, Ltd.	15,000.00	
	340,808.08	

Investments—	
Chinese Imp. Govt.	
E. Bonds	103,483.03
Hongkong & Kowloon	
Wharf & Godown	
Co., Ltd., Debentures	100,000.00
Hongkong Club De-	
bentures	50,000.00
Shanghai Land In-	
vestment Co., Ltd.,	
Debentures	49,877.40
Shanghai & Hongkew	
Wharf Co. Deben-	
tures	41,617.07
Shanghai Water-	
works Co., Ltd., De-	
bentures	8,472.22
	353,449.72

Loans on Mortgage—	
On Properties in	
Hongkong	859,400.00
On Properties in	
Shanghai	90,146.45
On Properties in	
Amoy	20,000.00
	969,546.45

Inland Lot No. 685—	
Assigned by Mortgagor	20,000.00
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Ltd., —	
Four Shares	522.00
Furniture Account:—	
Office Furniture, etc.	560.00
Accounts Receivable—	
Premia due from Agencies,	
Interest due on Deposits and	
Investments, etc.	45,961.72
	\$1,788,236.36

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1st January to 31st
December, 1897.

Dr. \$

To Charges Account—	
Rent, Salaries, Legal	
and Surveyors' Fees,	
Taxes, Stamps, Sta-	
tionery, etc.	\$31,648.28
Directors' & Auditors'	
Fees	7,400.00
	39,048.28

„ Commission Account—	
Agents' Commissions	21,576.86
„ Fire Brigades' Accounts—	
Contributions at Agencies, etc..	435.43
„ Losses Account, 1897—	
Claims paid after deduction of	
Re-insurances	51,983.13
„ Amount written off	
Furniture Account	61.00
„ Balance	237,802.90
	\$350,907.60

Cr. \$

By Premium Account—	
Premiums received after deduc-	
tion of Re-insurances	252,021.30
„ Interest Account—	
Amount at Credit, including in-	
terest due on Deposits and In-	
vestments, etc.	98,658.12
„ Transfer Fee Account—	
Amount at Credit	228.18
	\$350,907.60

E. & O. E.

JAS. B. COUGHTRIE,
Secretary.

We have examined the above Statement
with the Books and Securities at the Head
Office, and have found the same to be correct.

JAMES H. COX, }
W. H. POTTS, } Auditors.

Hongkong, 4th February, 1898.

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14th Jan., 1898.

Amusements.

PROFESSOR MERCK'S CONCERT AT THE ASTOR HALL.

Professor Merck, who is now so favourably known in Shanghai, gave his far-well concert at the Astor Hall on Wednesday night, and though the attendance was fairly good it was not up to the merits of the musical treat offered to the public. As on previous occasions the Professor was very ably assisted by some of our most notable amateurs, but the concert on Wednesday was exceptional inasmuch that it was essentially an evening for the famous 'cellist, who was down on the programme for no less than eleven pieces, with only one exception the numbers on the programme for the 'cello embracing two *moreaux*. These consisted of Concerto in B minor by Servais; Andante by Servais; Serenade by Herbert; Nocturne and Ronde Fantastique by Popper; Romance by Sitt; La Source by Divodoff; Réverie by Schumann; Spanish Dance by Popper; Cavatine by Hollmann, and Tarantelle by Popper. It will thus be seen that various styles of compositions were offered, which afforded the Professor ample opportunity of displaying his splendid artistic and technical skill, and his wonderful mastery over a very difficult instrument. Every piece was listened to by the audience with sympathetic attention, and every piece was very loudly applauded at its conclusion. It is almost impossible to particularise any one selection as being better than the others, but perhaps No. 3 of the second part of the programme secured the favour of the audience on account of the marked contrast of the two pieces that were bracketed together. Schumann's "Réverie," played with the mute on, appealed forcibly to the audience by reason of its slow measure, its lovely melody, and the expressive way in which its pianissimo passages were executed, and was immediately followed by the quaint and catchy "Spanish Dance," with which taking piece the Professor has favoured a Shanghai audience on several occasions. Its brilliant execution on this occasion was so much to the taste of the audience that they insisted on an encore, when the Professor gave another lively selection in the shape of a "Chanson Neapolitaine," by Casella. This made twelve pieces that the 'cellist played on Wednesday, besides an obligato accompaniment to one of the songs. The vocalists on Wednesday were Mrs. Bland and Mr. Nelson. Mrs. Bland's first song, No. 4 of the first part, was Gounod's ever-welcome serenade, *Quand tu chantes*, the violin obligato part being played by Miss Jansen in her own exceptional style. Mrs. Bland was in good voice and did full justice to the song, for which she was very loudly applauded, and in answer to the vigorous demand for an encore gave Ardit's *Il Bacio*, also in excellent style. At the conclusion of the serenade Mrs. Bland was presented by Professor Merck with an immense ornamental basket of flowers, and Miss Jansen with a handsome bouquet. Unfortunately Mrs. Bland's choice of her second song was not so happy, as she was hardly equal to the numerous difficulties of the cavatina from "Il Barbiere," *Una voce poco fa*. Mr. Nelson's first song, "Once," by Hervey, had the advantage of Professor Merck's obligato accompaniment, but was not so successful as "The Wandering Minstrel" by Mazzoni, which Mr. Nelson sang in the second part. This was admirably delivered and was so loudly applauded that Mr. Nelson had to appear again, when he gave "Tatters," by Gerald Lane. Commander Vela played the accompaniments to all the vocal pieces, and the ever-

accommodating Mr. Vinay played all the accompaniments for Professor Merck, which was no slight undertaking. As may be imagined from the length of the programme the Concert was not over until rather a late hour, but it is certain that the audience were more than pleased with the great treat afforded them.

THE ONE-HUNDRED-AND- ELEVENTH PERFORMANCE BY THE AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB OF SHANGHAI.

BREAKING THE ICE.

Characters.

Captain Selby Mr. H. Thornton.
Miss Margaret Marton Mme. Reitrop.
CHARLEY'S AUNT.

Characters.

Stephen Spettigue (Solicitor,
Oxford) Mr. St. Casse.
Colonel Sir Francis Chesney,
Bart., (late Indian Service) ... Scissors.
Jack Chesney Mr. Augustus
Charley Wyke- Spuffins.
ham Mr. V. de Rapp.
Lord Fancourt Mr. Drannek.
Babberley Mr. G. L. U. Potts.
Brassett (College Scout) Mr. B.N.M. Black.
James (the New Foo-nan)
Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez
(from Brazil) Mrs. Lochiel.
Amy Spettigue (Spettigue's
Niece) Miss Lehte May.
Kitty Verdun (his Ward) ... Celia Menzies.
Ela Delahay (an Orphan) ... Mazie Thorn.

The performance given by the members of the Amateur Dramatic Club, assisted by several ladies, at the Lyceum on Saturday evening was an unusually attractive one, and, although the weather was anything but favourable, the theatre was crowded with a fashionable and happily expectant audience some little time before Commander Vela gave the signal to his well-trained orchestra to attack Donizetti's overture to his *Daughter of the Regiment*. It was, of course, mainly the irrepressible *Charley's Aunt* that people had come from all the points of the compass on a wet night to the Lyceum to see. The fame of Mr. Drannek's performance in Hongkong of the title-rôle was wide-spread; and it was known that the recruits to his standard on Saturday were of exceptionally good quality. But before coming to the piece of the evening the audience listened with delight and constant amusement to the little sketch which was used as the *lever du rideau*, *Breaking the Ice*; and its interpretation by two of the A.D.C.'s leading artists, Mr. Thornton (Captain Selby) and Mme. Reitrop (Miss M. Marton), fully repaid their attention. Slight as the sketch is, it gave plenty of opportunity for Mme. Reitrop to display the winsome archness for which she is famous, and for Mr. Thornton to show what a capable and manly young hero he is; and the benefit of Mr. Reginald Bevant's experience as a manager was felt in the complete and satisfying way in which it was put upon the stage and carried through to a bright finish.

He is no critic who cannot find some fault, and the fault we have to find with *Charley's Aunt* is, that with an almost ideal cast there seemed to be a slight want of evidence of the stage manager's attention to details and general control. It takes a very experienced and case-hardened trader of the boards to play such an arduous part as that of Lord Fancourt and stage-manager at the same time. There was occasionally a little dragging where the farce, for it is emphatically a farce, should have been kept going at a hand-gallop; the action was now and then mechanical when it should have been infused with spontaneous life: the highest art of concealing the art with which a good situation has been produced was sometimes

wanting. We have after all made a great deal more of this drawback to a decided artistic success than is necessary; for that it was a great, complete, and well-deserved popular success the constant laughter and enthusiastic applause with which the farce was received incontestably proved. After every curtain the actors were heartily recalled, though there was no response at the close of the second act; and the loudest applause, with affectionate demands for Mr. Drannek, followed the conclusion of the piece.

For Mr. Drannek himself, considering the difficulties he had imposed upon himself, we have nothing but praise; had he been relieved altogether of the unnecessary responsibilities of management he would have been perfect. We have had *Charley's Aunt* played in Shanghai four or five times by professional travelling troupes, and someone has said that the worst professional is better than the best amateur, but one gladly forgives any want of age, stage-training, and experience when it is replaced by youth, enthusiasm, and the natural manners of good society. To have the Indian colonel, the undergraduates, the rich aunt, and the pretty girls with whom the undergraduates are in love, played by people who are almost exactly in real life the characters they are representing more than compensates for any want of experience. Mr. St. Casse (Spettigue) and Mr. Scissors (Sir Francis Chesney) are old hands. The former is at home in a wide range from the blushing *ingénue* to the eccentric old man, and he was duly amusing as the Oxford solicitor who is in love with Donna Lucia's money, and whose hat is so relentlessly sacrificed in the tea-party scene. It is many years since Mr. Scissors played with our A.D.C., and his return to the boards was heartily welcomed. His presentation of the old Indian colonel who has come back without the gout or the enlarged liver which make almost all Indian colonels on the stage so irascible and unreasonable, was a study perfectly carried out. He looked, dressed, and acted the part with all the care and appreciation of the trained actor, and we hope to see him soon again in some still better rôle. Mr. Spuffins (Jack Chesney) and Mr. V. de Rupp (Charles Wykeham), whose love affairs compel them to transform Lord Fancourt into the spurious Donna Lucia, made capital undergraduates, and the naturalness with which they played, the light-heartedness with which they attacked their difficulties, and the just sufficient feeling which they put into their love-making, were most commendable. A special word of praise must be given to Mr. Spuffins. He has an excellent voice, well modulated, and so clear that every word rang through the house; and to say that he showed great promise is only to give him half the commendation he merited. Though his was a *début*, it was a *début* that proved that the A.D.C. have a new *jeune premier* who may take his stand beside the Club's bygone celebrities. Mr. Drannek's Lord Fancourt Babberley realised the expectations that had been formed of him; he was a gentleman as the good-natured undergraduate, and a dear old lady as the spurious Aunt, bearing the burden of the piece and bringing out his points with a precision and outwardly unconscious humour that were thoroughly satisfying. His every word was followed with hearty laughter, and it was hardly ever that the spontaneity of his action was clouded with traces of study. Mr. G. L. U. Potts gave a lifelike rendering of the small but by no means unimportant part of the Scout, Brasset. Mr. Black was not only a most convincing Footman, but we understand that to his talents was really due the spurious Donna Lucia's artistic rendering on the piano of that brilliant classical masterpiece, *Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay*. All the four ladies were excellent. Mrs. Lochiel played the real Donna Lucia with a quiet dignity that was a capital foil to

Lord Fancourt's caricature, and her short love scene with Sir Francis was as effective as her sentimental conversation with her adopted ward, Ela. Miss Lehte May (Amy Spettigue) and Miss Celia Menzies (Kitty Verdun) were real, natural, English girls, playing their love scenes very prettily and making their confidences to the spurious Aunt with a naïve simplicity that enchanted the house. There was a touch of distinction in the appearance and acting of Miss Menzies that was full of promise. Miss Mazie Thorn (Ela Delahay) was equally charming in appearance. This part, that of the gentle sentimental orphan, was a more difficult one, for it is extremely difficult for amateurs to declaim sentimental speeches to an audience consisting to so large an extent of their personal friends and acquaintances. Miss Thorn surmounted this difficulty with real art and great success, and carried the sympathies of the audience with her.

Mr. Pipelet, who was responsible for the scenery, may fairly be congratulated on the first and third scenes, Jack Chesney's rooms and Spettigue's drawing room; but we never saw in even the smallest Hall at Oxford such a barren garden and such commonplace buildings as were made to do duty for the gardens of St. Olde's in the second scene. It was an insoluble puzzle to reconcile the interior and exterior of Jack Chesney's rooms. The music by the Town Band under the indispensable direction of Commander Vela was greatly enjoyed. It included, in addition to the overture, a selection from Sullivan's *Grand Duke*; the conductor's own *Sport and Gossip* waltz, and Barret's pretty *Daisy* gavotte. The performance, undoubtedly one of the best the A.D.C. has ever given, is to be repeated this evening, and those who have not seen it and do not go to see it, will miss a most delightful evening's amusement.

SATURDAY'S PAPER HUNT.

A soaking rain for two or three hours before a Paper Hunt, on what was already a sufficiently heavy course, one would think would not tempt a great number of riders to "join the gay throng," yet thirty-three starters assembled at the Clatter Bridge on Saturday last, and followed an excellent course selected by the Master and Mr. F. Dallas. "Heavy" going was no word for it, in fact when Blydenburgh's Turn was reached, two or three thought discretion the better part of valour and made their way to the finish down the road. It was certainly somewhat risky work both for ponies and riders. The scent after the two bridges in the village went the old Handicap way, then came the Plum Tree and the long stone Bridge at Jessfield, after which, going through the villages, the Fahwah line was followed and, bearing left, the finish was on Tidal Creek Island. Sammie's owners, if they could have given orders to the clerk of the weather, could not have arranged for a more suitable course for the big bay, and he had them all dead heat a long way from home and won as he liked. *Cumtoun* in spite of his years and long service was able to show his heels to the rest of the field by finishing second. The following is the official result of the hunt:—

- 1.—Mr. Cumming on *Sammie*.
- 2.—" Souter " *Cumtoun*.
- 3.—" Renny " *Clyde*.
- 4.—" Souter " *Agitator*.
- 5.—" Bennecke " *Friedel*.
- 6.—" Wallace " *Sardine*.
- 7.—Dr. Keylock " *Suspense*.
- 8.—Mr. Gwynne " *Walcot*.

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THE SHANGHAI GOLF CLUB.

LADIES' HANDICAP.

The first Handicap arranged by the Golf Club, for Ladies only, was played off in anything but favourable weather on Thursday last.

The day was unfortunately cold, and wet at times, which prevented many of the Ladies nominated from going round.

The Cup was won by Mrs. F. Seitz, with the remarkable scratch score of 49 made up as follows:—6, 6, 6, 7, 5, 3, 4, 7; the second prize going to Mrs. Armstrong with the net total of 58.

Player.	Gross Score.	Allowance.	Net Score.
Mrs. Seitz.....	49	—	49
" Armstrong	59	1	58
" Shorrock	64	1	63
" Jackson	72	5	67
" J. L. Scott	73	6	67
Miss Matthews	80	5	75
Mrs. McMichael	90	15	75
" Pullan	86	10	76
" Dewar	87	7	80
" Thomson	101	18	86
Miss Mann	111	18	93

Nine ladies were unable to play.

HONGKONG RACE MEETING 1898.

(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

FIRST DAY.

Tuesday, 1st February, 1898.

- 1.—THE WONG-NEI-CHONG STAKES.—A Sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$10 added, Second Pony to receive \$50. For China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Griffins on date of entry allowed 3 lbs. Subscription Griffins of this season, 1897-98, allowed 7 lbs.—*Half a mile*.

Mr. John Peel's g. *Silver Bell* (Mr. Master) 10 9...1
 " Lintom's g. *Slander* (Mr. Crawford) 10 9...2
 " Buxey's b. *Red Rose* (Mr. Wulleumier) 10 9...3
 Time, 60secs. Won by a short head.

- 2.—THE "VICTORIA" STAKES.—A Sweepstakes of \$10 each with \$250 added. Second Pony to receive \$50. For China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale.—*One mile*.

Messrs. McKie & Gove's ch. *Roilette* (Mr. Crawford) 11 1...1
 Mr. Dennis' ch. *Guiding Star* (Mr. P. A. Cox) 11 1...2
 " Hopeful's g. *Tyne* (Mr. W. W. Cox) 11 4...3
 Time, 2mins. 05secs. Won by $\frac{1}{2}$ length.

- 3.—THE MAIDEN STAKES.—Value \$400. Second Pony to receive \$75; Third, \$50. For China Ponies *bona fide* Griffins on date of entry. Weight for inches as per scale. Entrance \$10.—*Three quarters of a mile*.

Mr. Buxey's g. *Tube Rose* (Mr. Wulleumier) 11 4...1
 " Darius' cr. *Undaunted* (Mr. Master) 10 12...2
 " Dryasdust's d. *Outpost* (Mr. Marshall) 11 1...3
 Time, 1min. 30secs. Won by $\frac{1}{2}$ length.

- 4.—THE VALLEY STAKES.—A Sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$200 added. First Pony to receive 70 per cent.; Second, 20 per cent.; Third, 10 per cent. For Subscription Griffins of this season, 1897-98. Weight for inches as per scale.—*Three quarters of a mile*.

Messrs. McKie & Gove's ch. *Beechwood* (Mr. Crawford) 10 12...1
 Mr. John Peel's g. *Deceiver* (Mr. Master) 11 1...2
 The Neighbours' d. *Landsknecht* (Mr. Burkill) 10 12...3
 Time, 1min. 34secs. Won by a length.

5.—THE FOCHOW CUP.—Vale \$250. Presented by the Fochow Community. Second Pony to receive \$50. For China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Entrance \$5.—Two miles.

Mr. Dryasdust's g. <i>Sinbad</i> (Mr. Marshall)	st. lb.	10	9..1
„ Tin Wo's blk. <i>Dogoni-wetr</i> (Mr. Cruikshank)	10	12..2	
„ John Peel's ch. <i>Pineapple</i> (Mr. Master)	10	9..3	

Time, 4mins. 23secs. Won very easily.

6.—THE HONGKONG DERBY.—A Sweepstakes of \$20 each with \$1,000 added. (Half forfeit if declared on or before day of closing entries.) For China Ponies *bond fide* Griffins on date of entry (Saturday, 15th January, 1898). First Pony to receive 70 per cent.; Second, 20 per cent.; Third, 10 per cent. Weight for inches as per scale.—One mile and a half.

Mr. Hopeful's ch. <i>Yenisei</i> (Mr. Cox)	st. lbs.	11	1..1
„ Boyd's d. <i>Rookwood</i> (Mr. Marshall)	11	7 *2	
„ Buxey's d. <i>Tea Rose</i> (Mr. Wulleumier)	11	1 *2	

Time, 3mins. 15secs. Won by 3 lengths. * Dead Heat.

7.—THE LUSITANO CUP.—Presented by the Members of the Club Lusitano. Second Pony to receive half the entrance fees. For China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Previous winners at this Meeting 7 lbs. extra. Subscription Griffins of this season, 1897-98, allowed 7 lbs. Entrance \$10.—One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Buxey's w. <i>White Rose</i> (Mr. Wulleumier)	st. lbs.	11	1..1
„ John Peel's b. <i>Red Fish</i> (Mr. Master)	11	1..2	
Messrs. McKie & Gove's skd. <i>Glenmore</i> (Mr. Crawford)	11	1..3	

Time, 2mins. 39secs. Won by 2 lengths.

8.—THE COMPRADORE'S CUP.—Presented. Second Pony to receive half the entrance fees. Subscription Griffins of this season, 1897-98. Weight for inches as per scale. Winner of Valley Stakes 5 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5.—One mile.

Mr. George's b. <i>Mulatto</i> (Mr. P. A. Cox)	st. lbs.	11	1..1
„ G. H. Pott's g. <i>White Heather</i> (Mr. W. Cox)	11	12..2	
„ Hart Buck's g. <i>Ingoldsby</i> (Mr. Burkill)	10	6..3	

Time, 2mins. 13secs. Won by a short head.

9.—THE HONGKONG CLUB CUP.—Presented. Second Pony to receive half the entrance fees. For China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Entrance \$15.—One mile and a half.

Mr. Hopeful's g. <i>Orwell</i> (Mr. W. Cox)	st. lbs.	11	7..1
„ Dennis' ch. <i>Guiding star</i> (Mr. P. A. Cox)	11	1..2	
„ John Peel's g. <i>Mufti</i> (Mr. Master)	11	4..3	

Time, 3mins. 14secs. Won by many lengths.

10.—THE ENCOURAGEMENT STAKES.—A Sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$10 added. For Subscription Griffins of this season, 1897-98. First Pony to receive 70 per cent.; Second, 20 per cent.; Third, 10 per cent. Previous Winners excluded. Weight for inches as per scale.—Once Round.

The Neighbour's d. <i>Landsknecht</i> (Mr. Burkill)	st. lbs.	12	12..1
Messrs. Paul & Joe's skd. <i>Sprightly</i> (Mr. W. Cox)	11	1..2	
Mr. Sepia Pando's g. <i>Circuit</i> (Mr. Davies)	11	1..3	

Time, 1min. 57secs. Won by 2 lengths.

SECOND DAY.

Wednesday, 16th February, 1898.

1.—THE SCURRY STAKES.—A Sweepstakes of \$10 each. For China Ponies *bond fide* Griffins on date of entry. Weight for inches as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra.—One mile.

Mr. Darius' cream <i>Undaunted</i> (Mr. Master)	st. lbs.	10	12..1
„ Boyd's dun <i>Rookwood</i> (Mr. Burkill)	11	7..2*	
„ Buxey's grey <i>Tube Rose</i> (Mr. Wulleumier)	11	4..2*	

Time, 2mins. 7secs. Won by a length. * Dead heat.

2.—THE EXCHANGE PLATE.—Presented by the Bankers and Exchange Brokers of Hongkong. Second Pony to receive \$50. For China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. *Bond fide* Griffins on date of entry allowed 5 lbs. Winners at this Meeting 5 lbs. extra. Entrance \$10.—One mile and three quarters.

Mr. Hopeful's grey <i>Tyne</i> (Mr. Cox)	11	4..1
„ Dryasdust's grey <i>Sinbad</i> (Mr. Marshall)	10	9..2
„ John Peel's grey <i>Mufti</i> (Mr. Master)	11	4..3

Time, 3mins. 48secs. Won by six lengths.

3.—THE GARRISON CUP.—Presented by the Officers of the Garrison. Second Pony to receive \$50. For China Ponies *bond fide* Griffins on date of entry. Weight for inches as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$10.—One mile and a quarter.

Mr. John Peel's grey <i>Queensberry</i> (Mr. Master)	11	1..1
„ Hopeful's chestnut <i>Yenisei</i> (Mr. W. Cox)	11	1..2
„ Buxey's dun <i>Tea Rose</i> (Mr. Wulleumier)	11	1..3

Time, 2mins. 40secs. Won by a short head.

4.—THE GERMAN CUP.—Presented by Members of the German Club. Second Pony to receive half the entrance fees. For Subscription Griffins of this season, 1897-98. Weight for inches as per scale. Entrance \$10.—One mile and a quarter.

Messrs. McKie & Gove's chestnut <i>Beechwood</i> (Mr. Crawford)	10	12..1
The Neighbours' dun <i>Landsknecht</i> (Mr. A. W. Burkill)	10	12..2
Mr. Derick-Hunter's piebald <i>Gamecock</i> (Mr. Master)	10	6..3

Time, 2mins. 43secs. Won by a head.

5.—THE NAVY CUP.—Presented by Officers of H.M. Fleet. Second Pony to receive half the entrance fees. For China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Winners of one race at this Meeting 7 lbs. extra; of two or more races, 10 lbs. extra. Previous non-starters to carry 12st. Entrance \$10.—One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Buxey's white <i>White Rose</i> (Mr. Wulleumier)	11	1..1
Messrs. McKie & Gove's chestnut <i>Roitelet</i> (Mr. Crawford)	11	1..2
Mr. John Peel's bay <i>Redfish</i> (Mr. Master)	11	1..3

Time, 2mins. 38secs. Won by two lengths.

6.—THE JOCKEY CUP.—Value \$150. Second Pony to receive \$50. For Subscription Ponies of any season, winners excluded. To be ridden by Jockeys who have not had more than two winning mounts previous to this Meeting in Hongkong or China. Non-winners allowed 5 lbs.; Winners of one Race, weight for inches as per scale; Winners of two Races 5 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5.—One mile.

Mr. Medico's piebald <i>Hector</i> (Mr. Loveband)	10	9..1
„ G. H. Pott's grey <i>White Heather</i> (Mr. Davies)	10	12..2
„ G. H. Pott's chestnut <i>Whirlwind</i> (Baron P. Gunzburg)	11	1..3

Time, 2mins. 13secs. Won by a head.

7.—THE FLYAWAY STAKES.—A Sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$100 added. For China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Subscription Ponies of any season non-winners allowed 7 lbs. Subscription Ponies of any season winners allowed 3 lbs. Previous winners at this Meeting 7 lbs. extra.—Three quarters of a mile.

Mr. John Peel's grey <i>Kenneth</i> (Mr. Master)	11	1..1
„ Darius' cream <i>Undaunted</i> (Mr. Wulleumier)	10	12..2
„ Dryasdust's bay <i>Bickleigh</i> (Mr. Marshall)	10	12..3

Time, 1min. 32secs. Won by a half-length.

8.—THE TAI YEUK FONG CUP.—Value \$200. Presented. Second Pony to receive \$50. For China Ponies *bond fide* Griffins on date of entry. Subscription Griffins weight for inches as per scale, other Griffins 7 lbs. extra. Previous winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$10.—One mile and a half.

Mr. John Peel's black <i>Digby Grand</i> (Mr. Master)	11	1..1
„ Buxey's spotted <i>Hedge Rose</i> (Mr. Wulleumier)	11	11..2
„ Dennis' grey <i>The Unknown</i> (Mr. Davies)	11	5..3

Time, 3mins. 17secs. Won by 6 lengths.

9.—THE PROFESSIONAL CUP.—Presented. Second Pony to receive half the entrance fees. For China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Previous winners at this Meeting of one race 5 lbs. extra; of two races 7 lbs. extra; and of three or more races 10 lbs. extra. Non-starters at this Meeting excluded. Entrance \$10.—One mile and a half.

Mr. John Peel's chestnut <i>Pineapple</i> (Mr. Master)	10	9..1
„ Hopeful's grey <i>Orwell</i> (Mr. W. Cox)	11	7..2
„ Tin Wo's black <i>Dogoni-wetr</i> (Mr. Cruikshank)	10	12..3

Time, 3mins. 15secs. Won by 1½ length.

10.—THE GYMKHANA STAKES.—Value \$150 presented by the Gymkhana Committee, added to a Sweepstakes of \$5 each. For Subscription Ponies of any season. Winners and previous non-starters excluded. First Pony to receive 70 per cent; Second, 20 per cent; Third, 10 per cent. Weight for inches as per scale.—One mile.

Mr. Derick-Hunter's piebald <i>Gamecock</i> (Mr. Master)	10	6..1
Messrs. Paul & Joe's skd. <i>Sprightly</i> (Mr. W. Cox)	11	1..2
Mr. Buxey's chestnut <i>Golden Link</i> (Mr. Wulleumier)	11	1..3

Time, 2mins. 11secs. Won by a length.

THIRD DAY.

Thursday, 17th February, 1898.

Weather very damp and gusty.

1.—THE GRAND STAND STAKES.—Value \$150. Second Pony to receive \$50; Third, \$25. For China Ponies *bond fide* Griffins on date of entry. Winners of one race 5 lbs. extra; of two races 7 lbs. extra; and of three or more races 9 lbs. extra. Subscription Griffins non-winners allowed 5 lbs. Entrance \$5.—Once Round.

Mr. Boyd's d. <i>Rookwood</i> (Mr. Burkill)	st. lbs.	11	7..1
„ Darius' cream <i>Undaunted</i> (Mr. Wulleumier)	10	12..2	
„ John Peel's g. <i>Queensberry</i> (Mr. Master)	11	1..3	

Time, 1min. 54secs. Won by a neck.

2.—THE CIVIL SERVICE PURSE.—Presented. Second Pony to receive half the entrance fees. For Subscription Griffins of this season, 1897-98. Weight for inches as per scale. Previous Winners 7 lbs. extra. Penalties accumulative. Entrance \$5.—One mile.

Messrs. Paul & Joe's skd. <i>Sprightly</i> (Mr. Wulleumier)	11	1..1
The Neighbours' d. <i>Landsknecht</i> (Mr. Burkill)	10	12..2
Mr. David's b. <i>Springfield</i> (Mr. H. Sampson)	10	12..3

Time, 2mins. 11secs. Won by two lengths.

3.—THE CHALLENGE CUP.—Value 100 guineas. For China Ponies. To be won two years consecutively by a Pony or Ponies the *bond fide* property of the same Owner. First Pony to receive 70 per cent; Second, 20 per cent; and Third, 10 per cent of entrance fees. Weight for inches as per scale. Entrance (forced) \$5, but optional to Subscription Griffins of this season, 1897-98.—One mile and three quarters.

Mr. Hopeful's g. <i>Tyne</i> (Mr. W. W. Cox)	11	4..1
„ Tin Wo's blk. <i>Dogoni-wetr</i> (Mr. Cruikshank)	10	12..2
„ Buxey's spd. <i>Hedge Rose</i> (Mr. Wulleumier)	11	4..3

Time, 3mins. 49secs. Won by three-quarters of a length.

4.—**THE LADIES' PURSE.**—For all China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Winners at this Meeting other than Subscription Griffins 5 lbs. extra. Unplaced Ponies allowed 5 lbs. Previous non-starters at this Meeting 12 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5.—*Seven Furlongs*,

Mr. John Peel's g. *Kenneth* (Mr. Master) 11 1...1
 „ Dryasdust's d. *Outpost* (Mr. Crawford) 11 1...2
 „ Dryasdust's b. *Bickleigh* (Mr. Marshall) 10 12...3

Time, 1min. 49secs. Won by a length.

5.—**THE ROBINSON CHALLENGE CUP.**—Presented by H. E. Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G. For Subscription Griffins of this season. To be won twice by ponies the *bond fide* property of the same owner or owners. First Pony to receive 70 per cent of the entrance fees; Second 20 per cent; Third 10 per cent. Weight for inches as per scale. Winner of the German and/or Tai Yeuk Fong Cups 10 lbs. extra, winners of any other races 5 lbs. extra. Entrance fee \$10.—*One mile and a half*.

Messrs. McKie & Gove's ch. *Beechwood* (Mr. Crawford) 10 12...1
 Mr. Derrick Hunter's pbd. *Gamecock* (Mr. Master) 10 6...2
 The Neighbours' d. *Landknecht* (Mr. Burkill) 10 12...3

Time, 3mins. 21secs. Won by a dozen lengths.

6.—**THE PARSEE CUP.**—Presented. Second Pony to receive \$50. For China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Winners of one race at this Meeting 5 lbs. extra; of two or more races 7 lbs. extra. Unplaced Ponies allowed 5 lbs. Entrance \$10.—*One mile and a quarter*.

Messrs. McKie & Gove's skd. *Glenmore* (Mr. Crawford) 11 1...1
 Mr. Hopeful's g. *Orwell* (Mr. W. W. Cox) 11 7...2
 „ John Peel's b. *Red Fish* (Mr. Master) 11 1...3

Time, 2mins. 39secs. Won by a head.

7.—**THE PHAETON STAKES.**—Value \$250. Second Pony to receive 70 per cent of entrance fees; Third 30 per cent. For China Ponies *bond fide* Griffins on date of entry. Weight for inches as per scale. Previous winners at this meeting 5 lbs. extra. Penalties accumulative. Unplaced Ponies allowed 5 lbs. Subscription Griffins of the season, 1897-98, allowed 7 lbs. Entrance \$5.—*From the Two-mile Post Once Round and in*.

Mr. Buxey's d. *Tea Rose* (Mr. Wuilleumier) 11 1...1
 „ David's grey *Bannerman* (Mr. Sampson) 11 4...2
 „ John Peel's grey *Queensberry* (Master) 11 1...3

Time, 2mins. 22secs. Won by two lengths.

8.—**THE CONSOLATION STAKES.**—A Sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$150 added. Second Pony to receive \$50. For beaten China Ponies at this Meeting. Weight for inches as per scale.—*Once Round*.

Mr. Dennis' ch. *Guiding Star* (Mr. P. A. Cox) 11 1...1
 „ Dryasdust's black *Bickleigh* (Mr. Marshall) 10 12...2
 „ Hy. Edgar's ch. *Castanet* (Mr. Bucknell) 11 4...3

Time, 1min. 52secs. Won by five lengths.

9.—**THE CHAMPION STAKES.**—With \$250 added. For China Ponies winners at this Meeting only. A forced entry. Entrance \$20; winners of two races \$30; of three or more \$50. Weight for inches as per scale.—*One mile and a half*.

Mr. Hopeful's ch. *Yenisei* (Mr. W. W. Cox) 11 1...1
 „ Buxey's w. *White Rose* (Mr. Wuilleumier) 11 1...2
 „ Dryasdust's g. *Sinbad* (Mr. Marshall) 10 9...3

Time, 3mins. 14secs. Won by a head.

10.—**THE NIL DESPERANDUM STAKES.**—A Sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$50 added. Second Pony to receive \$50; Third Pony \$25. For beaten Subscription Griffins of this season, 1897-98. Weight for inches as per scale.—*Half a mile*.

Mr. Gay's d. *Man sachte* (Mr. Bucknall) 10 12...1
 „ David's bay *Springfield* (Mr. Sampson) 10 12...2
 Messrs. McKie & Gove's white *Beachcomber* (Mr. Crawford) 10 9...3

Time, 1min. 01secs. Won by a neck.

Correspondence.

HARNESSING PONIES IN THE STREETS.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Some time since, I called attention through the *N.-C. Daily News* to the danger that may arise through the harnessing of ponies in the streets. The Municipal Council replied by issuing a notification against the practice. The notification, however, was so many words, that was all, for nearly every day in the week the livery stable keeper in Astor Road disobeys it. This afternoon at 2.15 it took five mafoos to hold a pony that was being harnessed in the street in front of this stable. Comment is superfluous.

I am, etc.,

WILLIAM R. KAHLER.

15th February.

THE RECENT CHARITY CONCERT.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—I enclose copy of statement of account re Charity Concert given on 9th inst., and shall be very much obliged if you will kindly insert the same in your issue to-morrow. We have decided to give the Ladies' Benevolent Society \$300, the Coffee House \$100, and the Thomas Hanbury School \$100. Whilst sending you the enclosed for publication we should like to record the valuable assistance we received from Messrs. Moutrie & Co., who placed the grand piano at our disposal and otherwise helped us free of charge, and also to the *North-China Daily News* for advertising our concert gratuitously.

I am, etc.,

W. M. WOOD.

18th February.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

Dr.	
To Rent for the Lyceum	
Theatre	35.00
Printing	8.00
Advertising	6.75
Attendants' Fees	11.00
Balance	500.00
Cr.	
By cash received a/c sale of tickets	560.75
	560.75 560.75

Distribution of Balance :—
 „ Ladies' Benevolent Society.. 300.00
 „ Coffee House, Hongkew..... 100.00
 „ Thomas Hanbury School ... 100.00

E. & O. E.

W. M. WOOD.

Shanghai, 17th February, 1898.

THE QUESTION OF THE DAY.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Will you allow me, one of the "companions in misery," a clerk, a space in your paper to thank you for your very timely leading article of this morning in which you so justly espouse the cause of the wage-earners here. We hope you will continue the benevolent crusade in our favour, for the "din" must be kept up, so that eventually it may be "heard." We owe you a debt of gratitude for coupling our names with those who serve under the Chinese Maritime Customs service, for we, as a body, are just as underpaid as the thousands who earn their bread from the Chinese.

In the terrible struggle we—the high as well as the low—are just now experiencing to balance our domestic budgets, no item is more formidable and more reluctantly paid than, what it seems to many, the exorbitant and ruinous house rent. On this point more than any other we ought to send a continual wail of protest. To it we must attribute all our difficulties. One can understand that with the appreciation of the gold money, all articles purchased with that metal must go up in price, but one fails to grasp why the prices of native produce have also followed in the wake of the home goods. An enquiry into the reason for such a step reveals the fact that the evil is to be traced to the same cause, the greed of the land owners. With every fall in exchange the poor householders inevitably receive a note, that from such a date they will have to pay a few dollars more for their domiciles. But with every appreciation of silver no welcome letter is received of any diminution in rent. This upward movement has been going on for the last 24 months and to-day the foreigners pay 30% more for their houses, and the Chinese 50/75%. Can we wonder why all things are so dear? Can nothing be done to bring the house owners to a standstill? There is a real cause for an indignation meeting to be held to protest against this constant rise. To relieve this terrible strain on our limited purses some firms, it is true, have given their employees some sort of compensation in the way of bonus, but these temporary reliefs though welcome, do not quite cover the extra expenditure occasioned by the high cost of living here. What we must do is to appeal, and appeal again, until we are heard. Our salaries should be readjusted to meet the exigencies of the time, or else with the despair of ever making ends meet, debts will be incurred undoubtedly with fatal and sad results. Let us therefore hope that other pens, abler than mine, will continue the agitation, and lay our case more clearly before the public so that the eyes of those who dole out our wages may be opened, and they realise that to live an honest and decent life one must not be ever struggling as to how the bread of to-morrow is to be got without resorting to "ways that are dark" and sinful.

I am, etc.,

A COMPANION IN MISERY.

18th February.

THE BEST POLICY FOR CHINA.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—It is of course plain that the curtain does not fall with the annexation of Kiaochow. Everyone knows, though not everyone cares to say so openly, that China is about to be scrambled for; or at least that there is imminent danger of such a *dénouement* to the drama which has supplanted the long-drawn-out farce.

For several decades the laugh has been on China's side, who has fooled, and that most successfully, the various European nations who have attempted dealings with her. Now all that is, presumably, a thing of the past. The game of bluff played by China is over: it was no doubt great fun (for China) while it lasted. But now that her enemies have commenced a fresh game of open and unblushing snatch she may look in vain for a disinterested friend.

But no! I, although unworthy, am about to lay claim to that title. The fact is, Mr. Editor, I am burdened with a brilliant idea which has been burning in my solitary brain for some days. Now I will arise and, by your kind indulgence illuminate the world.

My suggestion is just this: *Let China throw open the whole of her Empire to the world.* Let all the ports be open ports, and all the cities, towns, and villages also open without discrimination or favour to nationalities.

Now you may think this "a large order," but the time for temporising with small concessions is past.

Sir, is it likely that Prince Henry is bringing a special squadron out here for nothing? Is it not in Kiaochou that a footing has been obtained where the banner of the new gospel is to be unfurled? And what if the preaching of his sacred mission arouses no enthusiasm among the Chinese, if they refuse to acknowledge the righteousness of the treatment that has been meted out to them, and to kiss the hand that robs them; if they insist on their right to dismiss His Thorn-Crowned Majesty's military instructors, or on any other rights they may still possess? Why, "strike" (snatch) "with your mailed hand."

Who can doubt that if Kiaochou, for instance, had been an open port it would still be Chinese territory (I mean, of course, *actually*, not merely *nominally*)?

Let China then make haste and be beforehand by voluntarily throwing open that part of her Empire which she still possesses to the free competition of the trade of the world, and thus snuff out this new and nasty game of grab.

In short I do not hesitate to suggest first, that this step would be to China's best and truest and immediate advantage; and secondly, that it is the *only* step that will save China from being "quartered," and that in the very near future.

I am, etc.,

A DISINTERESTED FRIEND OF CHINA.

14th February.

Poetry.

1897: A RETROSPECT.

We pause to mark the passing of the year,
And of the times we seek to read the signs;
The signs at times are very far from clear,
So we perforce must read between the lines.

The Turks have smashed the Greeks to smithereens,
While the "Concert" has been playing all the while
A tune, and this is surely what it means,
That gallant Greece must pay for it, and smile.

Oh! the "Concert" plays some very thrilling things
Which seem to fill our souls with sweet content;
It's playing 'neath the shadow of the wings—
'Tis the wings of Russian eagles that are meant.

We dare not call our very souls our own
On the continent of Europe yet awhile;
But we set the drilled Egyptian fellaheen
To chase the flying Arabs up the Nile.

And India has been felled beneath the stroke,
Of famine and of earthquake's awful shock!

While her borders were begirt with fire and smoke,
Where rebellion dared to rear its head and mock.

We sent our dusky Ghoorkas to the front,
To quell the bold Afridis on their hills;
And bravely they have borne the battle's brunt;
But is it fair that India pays the bills?

We proclaimed to all the world a Jubilee,
And our gracious Queen, God bless her! rode in State,
In all her Royal pomp and pageantry,
Surrounded by the noble and the great.

And a roar of thrilling triumph filled the land,
While the cannon boomed its echoes to the sea;
Where ships of war, magnificent and grand,
Thundered back the surging sound of Jubilee!

And mighty men of nations from afar,—
Nations born and bred in glorious liberty—
To their mother Queen brought offerings rich and rare,
And presented them with graceful courtesy.

Thus British trade with Canada's made free,
And the Cape presents a war-ship, so we read;
While from the far-off islands of the sea
Come promises of help, in time of need.

A Committee met to find what Rhodes had gained
In helping on the Doctor's famous raid;
They found that Joseph's soul was greatly pained,
And that telegrams sometimes do get mislaid!

Arbitration isn't fixed with Uncle Sam,
For the Senate won't agree to sign and seal;
And John Bull takes it meekly like a lamb,
But quarrels o'er another kind of seal.

"Teutonic action" sometimes makes us start,
And hold our breath in violent surprise;
But William never played a bolder part
Than seizing Kiaochou Bay before our eyes.

But sure the year has message for us all,
A message that must needs be plainly taught—
"Lest we forget" pride comes before a fall,
And strong alone when righteousness is wrought.

Are we not cursed with India's opium trade?
So there the scourge of God falls thick and fast;
And 'cause our trust's in commerce mainly laid,
The city's swept by flame's devouring blast.

R. C. F.

CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE.
—"The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light." Sufferers from Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sole everywhere at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

Miscellaneous.

THE DEPARTURE OF DR. YOUNG J. ALLEN.

Among the passengers leaving for San Francisco by the P.M.S. *China* on Wednesday was the Rev. Young J. Allen, D.D., LL.D., the Editor of the *Wan Kwoh Kung Pao*, or *Review of the Times*. Dr. Allen was one of our oldest residents, having spent nearly forty years in Shanghai, during the whole of which time he has been untiring in his efforts for the education and enlightenment of the Chinese in many ways. His work on the *Wan Kwoh Kung Pao* has been really invaluable, and his History of the War between China and Japan has had an incalculable effect in opening the eyes of educated Chinese all over the Empire to the real present condition of the country. He was unanimously elected a delegate from the China Mission Conference Methodist Episcopal Mission, South, to the General Conference which meets in the city of Baltimore, U.S.A., in May next. He will there represent to the church at large the work of the M. E. Mission, South, and will, no doubt, be successful in his endeavours to collect money and men for the mission, and in awakening fresh and extended interest in China. As a long resident in Shanghai, and especially in his position of Editor of an important magazine, he has thoroughly studied China and the Chinese; and is well qualified to represent at home the needs of the mission work here, and to correct the many erroneous views of the situation that prevail at home.

The best wishes of all who know him, and who wish well to his work and to the welfare of China, go with him on his homeward voyage; and his return to Shanghai and his work here will be heartily welcomed.

During his absence, the Rev. Timothy Richard will replace him in the editorial chair of the *Wan Kwoh Kung Pao*, and the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese is to be congratulated on having at its disposal so good a successor to Dr. Allen.

SERIOUS FIRES.

After a somewhat long period of inactivity the fire brigade had their hands full between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, they having to deal with two fires of considerable magnitude. The first call received was to the Jai Khong silk filature, on the Soochow Creek, near the British gaol. The fire broke out shortly after midnight, in the boiler house, and was caused by some silk having been placed on the top of the boilers to dry and becoming ignited. Thanks to the energy of the firemen, the flames were practically confined to the boiler house, which was completely destroyed. The damage is roughly estimated at between £4,000 and £5,000, but it is not yet known to what extent the boilers are damaged. The bulk of the loss falls on the North British and Guardian offices. Another alarm was given at about 2.20 a.m., this time for an outbreak in an opium shop off the Honan Road, a little north of the Nanking Road. The fire was caused by the upsetting of a lamp, and the flames spread with great rapidity until several of the adjoining shops were involved. Before the brigade were able to get the conflagration under control six shops were entirely gutted, and several others damaged by fire and water.

While the fire was in progress a man and a woman jumped from a first-floor window, apparently half-crazed with terror, and

sustained severe injuries. They were both removed to the Shantung Road Hospital by the police, where it was found that the woman was the more seriously injured of the two, having sustained a broken thigh. The loss on buildings and contents is estimated among the different offices as follows:—Fire Insurance Co. of 1877, Tls. 7,000; Sun, Tls. 4,000; North British, Tls. 3,000; Hongkong Fire, Tls. 2,000; Union, Tls. 1,000; New Zealand, Tls. 1,000.

THE SHANGHAI-WOOSUNG RAILWAY NEARING COMPLETION.

After a number of delays, which at the inception of the project not were for one moment contemplated, the railway connecting Woosung and Shanghai shows signs of completion, and it is expected that the line will be opened for traffic about the beginning of June. Though as is well known the distance between the two points is only fourteen miles stretching over a level country, the low-lying nature of the soil has brought the engineers face to face with difficulties which have required no small degree of tact and ingenuity to surmount. The greatest of all these obstacles was found in obtaining adequate foundations for the six bridges crossing the various creeks along the route, and it has been in securing these that so much time has been occupied. In the first place, before entering upon the erection of the superstructure of the abutments, innumerable piles, each 28 feet long, had to be driven in the form of a square into the ground, on either side of the stream or creek as the case might be, to prevent any intrusion of water from carrying away the upper masonry. This work was attended with the greatest difficulty at the first, as much as half-a-day being occupied in driving a single pile but subsequently an arrangement was come to whereby with the aid of steam pumps of great power the work was very much facilitated. These "bungs" having at length been put down at the expense of many weeks, the interior was filled in to the depth of a couple of feet with stones, covered with a layer of concrete and steel rails upwards of six feet in depth. This yielded a foundation of exceptional stability and upon it was erected the upper fabric, consisting of bricks of peculiar hardness specially manufactured by the China Brick Company of Shanghai. Steel girder bridges of German manufacture have then been requisitioned to span the intervening space and the bridges are complete. The work of the bridges though not quite finished is nearly so. The actual embankments for the permanent way have not given any unusual amount of trouble, though in places drastic measures for complete drainage have had to be resorted to. With the station buildings, four in all, practically finished very little now remains to be done but laying the rails and sleepers, and this work is not anticipated to take very long to accomplish. The sleepers and rails will arrive from Belgium in the course of three weeks and will be laid and secured in the fashion prevailing in Europe. The signalling will be on the block system. Coming to the rolling stock, the locomotives, which are already on the spot, have been made in America and are of the latest type, combining speed with great strength. The trucks and carriages for passengers are being made at the carriage works in Tientsin, though of course the wheels, springs, and axle boxes have been imported from Europe. It has been arranged to run first, second, and third class carriages, the rates both for freight and passenger conveyance being in conformity with Occidental notions.

In an interview with Mr. P. Hildebrand, the resident engineer-in-chief, one of our representatives gathered that the scheme

was confidently expected to prove a huge success. The old prejudice of the natives to railways, and in fact to anything spelling progress, had been subdued, and there was a general desire expressed on the part of Chinese merchants to see railways in the country. The railway from Woosung to Shanghai which came to such an abrupt and ignominious termination some years ago, commanded plenty of traffic; and there was no reason now why the present venture should not be so extended and developed that the rich mineral deposits and manufactures of the interior might be brought cheaply to the coast. So far as the old railway was concerned, the mandarins alone objected to it and not the merchants, but there was no fear, now that the matter was under imperial jurisdiction, of any further interference with their work by any section of the people. To commence with, they would only run a single line, but as time sped on, it would be doubled and extended on to Soochow, Nanking, and further. At the present time fifteen kilometres of the railway from Hankow to Peking were already finished and the proposal to connect Canton with Wuchang was meeting with favourable consideration in high circles. That being so there was no reason why their line should not be made to join these, and thus connect the North and South of China by rail with Shanghai. Plans had already been drawn for the erection of docks at the Woosung terminus of the line (as well as additional stations in the French Settlement and the native city of Shanghai), so that there would be plenty of scope for developing and creating a great and lasting trade with the interior. Speaking with regard to the importance of Woosung as a coaling depot, Mr. Hildebrand stated that at present the coal used for steamers there was principally Japanese, being much cheaper but very inferior to Chinese coal. The reason however of this cheapness was to be found in the difficulty in getting Chinese coal to the coast, but with the opening of the railway new coal mines would be started, and coal landed on the coast at very cheap rates. This would produce healthy competition with the Japanese, and virtually open up a new industry, to the advantage of the consumers. The railway he estimated would, when finished, have cost Tls. 450,000, but this amount would probably be exceeded. In conclusion he confidently expected to see the railway opened in three months, or three and a-half months at the latest.

THE NEW CAPTAIN-SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.

INTRODUCTION TO THE FORCE.

On Monday an inspection of the municipal police took place, the main object of which was to introduce the officers and men of the force to Mr. Pierre B. Pattison the new Captain-Superintendent. The review was held on the lawn facing the central block of the Louza police station, the 462 men on parade being detailed from the various stations as follows: Central 97, Louza 119, Hongkew 205, Yangtsepoo 29, and Carter Road 12. The officers present were Captain Mackenzie, Chief Inspector Howard, Inspectors Reed, Matheson, Ramsey, and Wilson, whilst the small troop of mounted Sikhs were under the direction of Police Constable Spottiswoode. The corps were formed up in a square and looked remarkably smart and well drilled whilst their movements left no ground for cavil. Captain Pattison, who was accompanied by Mr. A. R. Burkill, the Chairman of the Council, passed down the lines and minutely examined the arms, clothing, and accoutrements. At the close of the inspection Mr. Burkill briefly addressed

those present. In the course of his remarks he observed that they would have noticed from a recent Municipal notification that Captain Pattison had assumed control of the police force and the Council took the opportunity of expressing the hope that all ranks would give him unquestioning obedience as their chief. Now a petition which had been prepared by certain members of the force had recently received the attention of the Council, and with regard to that document and the terms in which it was expressed, he considered it was his duty to point out that the tone thereof left a great deal to be desired. It showed a lack of that discipline which was essential for the utility and well-being of any force, and whilst that Council was prepared to look into any real causes of discontent, such matters as hours of labour or scale of pay could under no circumstances whatever be discussed or criticised by members of the force. It was open to any servants of the municipality to quit the service for more congenial employment, but whilst they continued to be servants of the Council they must know once and for all that the orders of the Council must be obeyed without question. The Council therefore expected that the inspectors, sergeants, and constables of the force would afford Capt. Pattison every assistance in the carrying out of the rules and regulations which the Council, under his advice, might think necessary for the welfare and good government of the Settlement. Captain Pattison remarked that he could only say for his part that the orders of the Council would be strictly carried out.

The other members of the Municipal Council were also present throughout the proceedings.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

A History of China, from the earliest days down to the present. By Rev. J. Macgowan, L.M.S. Large 8vo., 622 pp. With a sketch map. Shanghai: Printed at the Presbyterian Mission Press. 1897.

The Choir Invisible. By James Lane Allen. Small 8vo., 361 pp. Macmillan's Colonial Library. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

Racing and Chasing, a Collection of Sporting Stories. By Alfred E. T. Watson. With numerous illustrations. Longmans' Colonial Library. Shanghai, Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

The Child's Paper. March, 1898. Illustrated. 8vo., 16 pp. Shanghai: The Chinese Tract Society.

The Chinese Illustrated News. February, 1898. 8vo., 24 pp. Shanghai: The Chinese Tract Society.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment.—Influenza, Coughs and Colds.—In diseases of the throat and chest, so prevalent in our changeable climate, nothing so speedily relieves, or so certainly cures, as these inestimable remedies. These disorders are too often neglected at their commencement, or are injudiciously treated, resulting in either case in disastrous consequences. Whatever the condition of the patient, Holloway's remedies will restore, if recovery be possible; they will retard the alarming symptoms till the blood is purified and nature consummates the cure, gradually restoring strength and vital nervous power. By persevering in the use of Holloway's preparations, tone is conferred on the stomach and frame generally. Thousands of persons have testified that by the use of these remedies alone they have been restored to health after every other means had failed. (14)

THE BITTER CRY OF THE CUSTOMS STAFF.

The following documents will be read with great interest. It is understood that the appeal has been presented by Sir Robert Hart to the Tsungli Yamen:—

SIR,—We, the undersigned, the Foreign members of the Chinese Customs Service, most respectfully submit to you the enclosed Appeal, with a Chinese version, calling attention to the hardships entailed on us by the continued fall in the gold value of silver, and praying for a revision of our salaries on the basis of a fixed sterling rate of 5s. to the Haikuan tael; and we would request you, if you should see fit, to lay our petition before the Tsungli Yamen and accord it your powerful support.

Assured in advance of your countenance and sympathy, we venture to hope that the action we are now taking may in some degree strengthen your hands and assist your endeavours to obtain for us relief and restore to the Service that position of independence and repute which your unwearied devotion to its welfare and your able administration had secured for it.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

[Here follow signatures.]

TO SIR ROBERT HART, BART., G.C.M.G.,
Inspector-General of Customs, Peking.

An Appeal from the foreign members of the Customs service for a revision of pay, on the ground of steady depreciation in the gold value of silver.

More than 30 years have now elapsed since the Customs Service under the Foreign Inspectorate was first established. During that period the trade of China, both with Foreign countries and from port to port, has increased with leaps and bounds. In 1866 there were but 14 treaty ports, with a Foreign trade valued at 118,000,000 Haikuan taels and a net home or interport trade of 32,000,000 taels, from which China derived a revenue of over 8,780,000 taels. Ten years later, in 1876, the number of treaty ports had been increased to 15, the value of the Foreign trade had risen to 151,000,000 taels and of the home trade to 37,000,000 taels, and the revenue derived from that trade had risen to over 12,150,000 taels. Another 10 years, in 1886, the number of treaty ports had been increased to 19, the value of the Foreign trade had risen to 165,000,000 taels and that of the home trade to 50,000,000 taels, and China's revenue from that trade to 15,150,000 taels. After the lapse of still another 10 years, in 1896, the number of treaty ports had been increased to 28—with two more since added,—with a Foreign trade valued at 334,000,000 taels and a home trade valued at 62,000,000 taels, and China's revenue from it had risen to over 22,580,000 taels.

This constant increase in the number of ports, and still more constant increase in the volume of merchandise to be dealt with, has necessarily entailed a corresponding strengthening of the personnel of the Customs Service; and thus it has resulted that while 1,000 odd employes, Chinese and Foreign, were found sufficient to carry on the work of the various Custom Houses in 1866, it had become necessary to raise that number to 1,918 in 1876, to 2,613 in 1886, and to 4,330 in 1896. This steady expansion in the number of establishments and in the personnel unavoidably entailed a corresponding growth in expenditure, to meet which additions to the allowance granted by Imperial Edict for the maintenance of the Service have been applied for and sanctioned. But these larger allowances have only been sufficient to pay the salaries of the additional men who had to be engaged to deal with the augmented work; they have not permitted of any increase being made in the remuneration of the various grades. It has consequently resulted that the salaries of Commissioners and of subordinates remain now what they were 30 years ago; or if they have been changed, they have been lowered not raised.

In those 30 years, however—but especially during the last 15,—very important economic changes have taken place. The values of silver and gold have so far diverged that

while in 1866 only S'hai Tls. 3.20 were required to purchase £1, in 1876, Tls. 3.78 were necessary; in 1886, Tls. 4.52; in 1896, Tls. 6.60; and a few weeks ago no less than Tls. 8.77 were requisite. In 10 years the gold value of the tael has fallen close on 50 per cent, and 30 per cent in the last year alone. Now foreigners, though in China, must live largely on foreign food and wear foreign clothes, and the bulk of their expenses have to be met in gold or its silver equivalent. The result is that juniors not only have no surplus from their pay to lay aside, but can with great difficulty meet the expenses of bare living. They must spend, instead of laying by, the allowances of a year's pay issued at fixed periods in lieu of the retiring pensions granted by other Governments. Thus they can make no provision against sickness or old age. The position of seniors of 25 or 30 years' service is even more deplorable: they have children who must be sent home to be educated; and, while living themselves in China where their work is, they have to maintain an establishment abroad—a necessity which it was possible to meet in former days, but which at the existing rates of exchange their pay is quite inadequate to bear the expense of. Hence circumstances over which they have no control have forced them into the position that they must act in a manner which entails considerable expense in gold, and yet that their silver pay, even after so many years of faithful and loyal service, is inadequate to support that expense. Ruin is now staring them in the face.

Governments like those of India, Singapore, and Hongkong, which have a silver currency, and all public companies and even private firms in the Far East whose transactions are in silver, have years ago recognised the hardships entailed on their employes by the depreciation of silver, and have, in consequence, either increased the pay of their employes or have allowed them to draw a portion of their silver pay in gold at a rate far above the market rate. In the case of banks and mercantile houses this has been done in spite of increased competition having forced them to reduce their commissions and profits. The Hongkong Government has not only granted an increase in silver of 35 per cent, but has also allowed a certain portion of that pay, thus increased, to be drawn at 3s. to the dollar, while the market value of the dollar is less than 2s. As the Inspector-General, sympathising with the distress of the Service, had stated some years ago that the Chinese Government was acquainted with the embarrassments caused to the Customs staff by the fall in silver, the Service felt confident that that Government would give the matter its careful consideration and accord them relief by treating them with no less liberality and justice than had been shown by Foreign Governments and public companies to their employes. Confident in this hope the Customs Service refrained from pressing their claims to indemnification on the Chinese Government. Suddenly, trouble arose between Japan and China, and when that ended in enormous indemnities having to be paid to Japan, the Service, mindful of the Government's difficulties, decided that it ought not to increase those difficulties by pressing claims on an already largely depleted exchequer. But since then the evils have been so greatly aggravated—silver, as compared with gold, having again fallen over 30 per cent—that the members of the Service can no longer refrain from respectfully presenting their claim for consideration.

The salaries of the foreign members of the Service were originally based on an exchange rate of 6s. 8d. to the Haikuan tael. They have gradually depreciated until they now represent little more than one-third of their initial value. We do not ask that they shall be restored to the old rate, though we hope that this may be done eventually. We merely ask that the Government will grant us such a revision of our pay as will enable us to live respectably and free from harassing anxiety, to educate our children, and make some provision against sickness and old age. To this end we venture to propose that the Government should follow the example of the Government of India, which, collecting its revenues in silver, has granted to the services, civil and military, a Compensation Allowance based on a fixed rate of 1s. 6d. to the rupee (i.e., three-fourths of the original value of the rupee at 2s.), and grant us a similar allowance with

a fixed rate of 5s. to the Haikuan tael (i.e., three-fourths of the original basis of 6s. 8d. to the tael). The amount of the Compensation Allowance to be issued would increase or decrease with the fall or rise of exchange, and would disappear entirely when the tael became worth 5s.

It should also be pointed out that this decline in the gold value of silver, while it is working ruin to the Customs Service, is at the same time assisting to rapidly build up China's commerce and pour wealth into the country. If a given quantity of silk or skins which was sold abroad a few years ago for £10 can now be sold for £7, it stands to reason that Foreign countries can afford to purchase more now than they could then; and as the £10 realised, in 1886 say, represented only Tls. 45 odd, while the £5 for which the goods now sell represent Tls. 55 odd, the profit to the Chinese producer has evidently considerably increased. There is thus a direct incentive to trade at both ends of the line. The result of this condition of things is shown by the fact that while the Foreign trade of China only increased 50 per cent during the 20 years prior to 1886, during the 10 years since then—the period during which the decline in the gold value of silver has become most accentuated—that trade has increased no less than 100 per cent. Moreover, the dearthness of gold and cheapness of silver has the inevitable result of increasing the cost in China of Foreign products, e.g., cotton cloth, as compared with that of similar Chinese products: hence factories are being erected everywhere in China. These give employment to tens of thousands of workmen, raise the current rates of wages, and increase the wealth of the country. Such, then, being the case, the members of the Customs Service are satisfied that, once these facts have been brought to the notice of the Chinese Government, it will not sit idly by and see them ruined by the very conditions which are so rapidly increasing the wealth of the country and the well-being of its people.

"TAKE CARE OF YOUR DOGS."

This is the advice of a correspondent who forwards us an interesting communication on the subject of hydrophobia. In the course thereof he relates his experience of this fearful scourge in the case of a sporting dog, two and a quarter years old, which he recently possessed. The first symptom of the presence of the disease he states betrayed themselves in lack of appetite and great restlessness. After two or three days the last-named symptoms increased and the dog whose coat began to sadly deteriorate furthermore suffered from retching, accompanied by apparent choking. Later he suffered intensely from choking and cramp in the jaw, set up fearful howling and barking and commenced leaping into the air and barking and snapping at every other dog with which he came in contact. On the sixth day the dog was shot, but to the last was sensible and knew his master. The general impression that all dogs suffering from hydrophobia fought shy of water was not true, for in this case the afflicted animal tried on many occasions to drink, but failed to gratify his wish owing to cramp in the jaw. The dog in question was bitten through the muzzle some time ago by a dog which, it turned out, died raving after about two days' sickness. On the death of his dog the writer states that he ordered the body to be dissected and examined, the result of which proved that the animal was in the best condition organically. He goes on to state that he blames himself entirely for having neglected to wash the wounds of the dog, immediately after they were inflicted, with a solution of carbolic acid, and in conclusion recommends all owners of dogs to keep handy a stock of this powerful disinfectant and in the case of their dogs getting bitten apply it with a sponge to the wounded parts at once, whether the other dog be sick or sound.

A LEGAL TENDER.

One of the most inconvenient formalities required by law is a legal tender. The writer had some time ago a personal experience of the difficulties which may arise where this is required, and the following account will tend to show the hardship and even injustice, which might occur to a party to a contract who, having to make a legal tender, might be prevented from doing so by the attendant difficulties, and lose all rights under his contract.

I should perhaps explain that a legal tender occurs where one party to a contract is required to make payment of a certain sum, on or before a certain day, in consideration of which payment the other party to the contract engages to transfer to him something, or to do some act. If the party required to make the payment fails to do so at the time fixed, it is obvious that he gives the other party (who may be glad of the chance) the opportunity of saying, when a little later the money may be forthcoming: "Oh no! you have not complied with the terms of our contract, I am off the bargain now."

The law requires that the offer of the money be made in cash, current coin. If a large sum has to be tendered in England where Bank of England notes are a legal tender the inconvenience is not much felt; if it had to be made in gold the inconvenience at once suggests itself. But if one has to tender about £20,000 in silver dollars and the party to whom the tender has to be made lives in a far country, roamed over by disbanded soldiery and infested by marauders, the extreme inconvenience, as well as difficulty and danger, appeals to the party having to make the tender with considerable force. The theory of a legal tender is stated in an ancient law book to the effect that the sight of the actual money before the party to whom it is offered, has the effect of so moving him that, overcome, he incontinently takes it and performs his part of the contract.

As to the business in which I was concerned and out of which arose the necessity of making a legal tender, it will be sufficient to say that a Mr. A. B. had entered into certain contracts with the Annamese Government (recognised by the French Resident) by the terms of which the Annamese Government were to surrender valuable mining concessions to him in exchange for \$100,000 which sum was to be paid before the 31st of August, 1888.

The time approaching, and the French Protectorate Government being known to be unfavourable to the contract being carried out, it became necessary, in performance of our part to make an actual presentation of the money in silver dollars to the Annamese Government, and as some doubt existed whether the presentation should be made first at Hanoi or Hué it was deemed advisable to tender it first at Hanoi and if the French Government there refused to allow the Annamese to accept it that a similar tender should be made at Hué.

It may be mentioned too, that although French law guided our acts and although the formalities to be observed in making the tender differed from English law, the general principle was the same, namely that the money had to be presented in the recognised currency of the country, which was, unfortunately for us, the cumbersome Mexican Dollar.

The financial arrangements were completed by Mr. A. B. in Hongkong, and one fine morning in the middle of August, Mr. J., a gentleman interested in the affair, and I left the harbour of Hongkong on board the little steamship *Melita* bound for Haiphong together with our \$100,000 in twenty-five boxes, each weighing about 300lbs, and with about 75 Chinese passengers. The *Melita* had but one cabin below

deck about 6 feet square, and as the thermometer stood at about 88° we preferred to sleep on deck.

With the recollection of the fate of those on board the s.s. *Greyhound* unpleasantly fresh in our minds, (she having been seized by pirates who had come on board as passengers within a few hours of her leaving Hongkong, the captain being murdered and thrown overboard and several officers badly wounded,) we did not omit to keep alongside of us loaded revolvers.

A hundred thousand dollars would be a handsome haul on which a moderate-minded gang of pirates could retire from business and become small mandarins in their native villages, resting in honourable comfort for the remainder of their days.

August is one of the months when typhoons sweep the sea, and the state of the weather in Hongkong immediately after the departure of the *Melita*, caused our friends there to waste a quantity of undeserved sympathy upon us, for although a typhoon was somewhere in the neighbourhood we were lucky enough to leave the bad weather behind, and passing through the Hainan Straits—fruitful in wrecks—we steamed down the Gulf of Tongking, and arriving safely at the mouth of the Red River were piloted to Haiphong.

At that time, which is by the way some years ago, the town of Haiphong in its lack of buildings of any pretensions, and its general appearance of want of prosperity and trade, presented a marked contrast to the thriving and busy aspect of Hongkong. In the river were to be seen plenty of ships-of-war but few ships of commerce, and the impetus caused by the wants of the French forces during the, then, late war with China having subsided, there was a general complaint of the dulness of trade. The French had occupied the place for about ten years, yet scarcely a decent road was to be found in the Concession, and after a good shower of rain one had to walk in mud three inches thick. No attempt had been made at lighting the town or apparently to drain it, there was no water fit to drink, and taken all together Haiphong was then decidedly undesirable as a place of residence.

Our first care was to charter a steam launch for Hanoi, our second to interview the *Avocat* of the place and to arrange the necessary legal documents, *procès-verbal* etc., etc., with which we were to be armed on making our tender. The afternoon following the day of our arrival saw the treasure discharged from the *Melita* into our steam launch and we were soon en route for Hanoi, some eighty miles up the Red River.

The French authorities, naturally interested in making the best of things, represented the country through which the river winds, and Tongking generally, as tranquil, but our friends at Haiphong advised us to take an escort and be on the alert, particularly at night. We accordingly applied to the French Resident for a guard and by his courtesy were accommodated with half-a-dozen Annamese soldiers well armed. With this as a stand-by and our own European contingent, augmented by a correspondent to the French Press and the *Avocat*, and with a Winchester repeating rifle served out to each man, we could present a formidable appearance. The river is narrow and winds through miles of rice-growing country, perfectly flat and uninteresting, and then yielding not much more than sufficient to supply the wants of the numerous villages dotted along the banks. Each village is enclosed by a thick impenetrable growth of bamboos and areca trees as a protection against marauding neighbours, for they do not waste confidence in these parts between man and man. Many of these villages have a junk population, and nearly all these gentry vary the monotony of commerce with a little piracy whenever opportunity offers or trade is dull.

Besides these quasi-professional pirates the country was still infested by large bodies of disbanded soldiers from the Chinese army, who lived by raids on the villages and on the river. I gradually awakened to the conviction that making a legal tender to the Government of Annam was not accompanied by that sense of personal security which has always appeared to me one of the chief charms of the legal profession.

We expected to arrive in Hanoi at about five in the morning having left Haiphong late on the previous day. Our pilot informed us that he could navigate the river during the night and we believed and composed ourselves to slumber on a couch formed by laying a Cambodia mattress (a thing about half an inch thick and destitute of all comfort) on the top of the hatch, round and about which we all lay, packed like sardines.

At about 3 a.m. I was aroused by the fact that an awful commotion was going on, on board our launch and that we were at a standstill. Mingled with the excited voices of the Frenchmen of our party were the horrid cries and shouts of the Chinese, while amid the turmoil one could distinguish hurried words of command being given. Peering into the night I made out something! Yes! There they were! there could be no doubt of it! It was a night attack and a crowd of junks were within 60 yards of us. Oh horror!! However it turned out that I was quite wrong; what had really happened was that the Chinese sailor at the wheel had succumbed to sleep, and in his gentle and unwatched slumbers had run us on to a sand-bank by the side of the channel. It was awkward enough truly, and one of our party cheered us by prophesying that we shouldn't get off for a fortnight and quoted a case in point. Fortunately for us the junks alongside the village, off which we were aground, were in a state of quiescence, but with the knowledge of the little ways of the villagers it was scarcely the particular spot one would have chosen to spend a pleasant day at, and affairs might at any moment have changed for the worse. We were really in a very awkward predicament, besides which time was of the greatest importance to us. Several of our party did not look like sleeping again, but some, as might be said, like Lord Tomnoddy's friends—they went to bed. Much gratified they were an hour or two afterwards to wake and find that the launch had been got off with anchors, and the assistance of the tide, and was again on her way.

Without further adventure we arrived off Hanoi at about eight o'clock in the morning and anchored opposite to a small black building bearing the word "*Douane*" painted in imposing letters.

Washing was rather at a discount on our steam launch, with six adults forward of the funnel and goodness knows how many Chinese and Annamese aft, and we all agreed that the acme of comfort in living was by no means reached when one had to eat balancing the plate on one's knees and steadying it with a knife and fork. We went ashore shortly after our arrival, leaving two unfortunates of our party on the launch to guard the treasure. The town of Hanoi, although the principal city of Tongking, is by no means striking. It covers a large area of ground and the streets are fairly wide, but with the exception of a few houses built since the French have turned their attention to it, and a few streets inhabited either by Chinese or the better class of Annamese, the place seems over-run with ramshackle mud-built, coarsely-thatched huts. Distinct from the town stands the great Vauban-built Citadel, a huge square enclosed by massive brick walls and surrounded by a moat; inside of this Citadel are most of the Government buildings.

In one or two of the streets where the houses were of brick I was struck by their similarity to the houses in some of the towns in the north of the Kiushu province, Japan (in which part of the country the houses are of brick and not of wood); while in a Buddhist Temple, near the great lake outside the City of Hanoi, is a huge image in bronze some 20 feet high and very well executed, and this is generally believed to be Japanese. The work is quite in their style as are also one or two of the painted carvings on the side walls outside the temple.

No one seems able to give any account of how this huge image came to its present place. It has a sword in its hand the point resting on a tortoise, and has the appearance of a warrior, suggestive of quite other attributes than those belonging to Buddha, although it is in a Buddhist Temple.

Not far from this spot, on the Sontay Road, General Rivière met his death in the early part of the Tongking war.

That campaign must have been a terrible one for the French. When one has seen the country through which they marched and fought, paddy fields thick in mud and water; when one has felt the frightful heat which they had to go through in their ordinary, thick, cloth uniforms and heavy knapsacks, crowded with the variety of things which the French soldier has to carry, including cooking utensils, some portion of a tent, and a parade uniform; and when one has heard from eye-witnesses of the hardships they had to endure, sleeping out in the wet fields, commissariat nowhere, sunstroke and fever everywhere, fighting, tired and hungry, with the prospect of torture and mutilation if caught by the enemy, one realises that the French soldier must have had a hard time in Tongking.

The sun is savagely fierce, so much so that sunstroke caused by reflection from water is frequent. There was a story told me by one who had been with the French during the war, that General Négrier once sent a small party of 21 men forward, from where his column was encamped near Baoninh, to reconnoitre. It was mid-day and they had to walk through paddy fields covered with water. In half-an-hour fourteen came back bearing the bodies of the other seven all of whom were down with sunstroke! But to return to our own affair. The principal object of our going on shore having been accomplished, namely the giving of the necessary notice to the Annamese and French authorities of our intention to make the tender that afternoon, and having enjoyed the pleasure of a comfortable *déjeuner* ashore, we returned at about 3 p.m. to the launch and were glad to find that the twenty-five cases of dollars had in the meantime been safely passed over a very insecure-looking bridge of planks, (fixed up between the mud flat of the river bank and the launch) and that they were reposing in five bullock carts ready for our marching. The guard formed up and forthwith our imposing procession moved onwards through the crowds of gaping citizens to the Residence of the King Nuc,—the Representative in Tongking of His Majesty the King of Annam. In less than half-an-hour we arrived and had the honour of being ushered into his presence.

The general appearance of poverty in Hanoi extended even to the Chamber of State in which we found ourselves. It was as mean and as poorly furnished as could well be. Four white-washed walls with an inferior kakimono hanging from one of them, and a bar saloon advertisement picture of some celebrated tobacco adorning another, a common, red-tiled, stone floor, a few benches, a cheap blackwood table and a few stools, to represent the throne or place of honour at the end of the room, and the catalogue is complete.

The King Nuc looked like an old superannuated coolie, in holiday attire consisting of a shabby, old, long silk coat, a pair of old shoes and no stockings (if I remember rightly). After the *procs-verbal*, a statement of the cause of our being there, had been gabbled through by the *Chancelier*, (the Law Officer who had accompanied us) and after the King Nuc had been informed by the French Resident of Hanoi that he was not to accept our tender, the treasure was produced and opened, the bags each containing one thousand dollars untied, and their glittering contents displayed before him; much as the sight no doubt moved the old man he felt constrained to decline our tender in obedience to the Resident's commands.

Our business in Hanoi was now ended and packing up our dollars again and politely declining some inferior-looking beer which was offered us, we conveyed our boxes of treasure to the bullock carts, thence back to the launch, and repassed them over the bridge of planks with much apprehension, but fortunately without accident. Within an hour we were en route for Haiphong and arrived there early next morning.

Our labour, however, was not nearly over, it being now deemed necessary to make a similar tender at Hué.

Hué, the capital of Annam, is some 250 miles south of Haiphong, and to accomplish this journey we had to charter a steamer, reported to be due in Haiphong on the following day.

It was agreed that the dollars should remain in the launch in preference to undergoing the trouble and risk of landing and reshipping them into the launch and again on board the steamer. This arrangement necessitated a watch being kept, and three of us had the pleasant duty of keeping guard over the treasure in turns. We remained on guard all through that baking hot day, and for forty-eight hours after, as our steamer the *Phu Quoc* did not arrive until the afternoon of the third day of our return to Haiphong. The glare of the water and the monotony were both very troublesome, and I can answer for one of the party having ceased to see the least humour in sleeping on a hatch instead of being in bed.

At last the *Phu Quoc* did arrive. She had broken down in her engines and had been delayed repairing the damage. We were aboard with the treasure in the hold and en route for Hué within three hours of her arrival, our party being lessened by the absence of the correspondent from Haiphong and Mr. H., the *avocat*. The latter should never have gone on our Hanoi trip as he was suffering much from a huge carbuncle and was too ill to have attempted the journey. When we returned from Hué we found that mortification had set in and he had died a few hours before our arrival. He met his death in the calmest manner; on learning that mortification had set in and that he had only a few hours to live, he had quietly set his house in order, arranging all his papers and making a few memoranda of explanation. He then sat down to tiffin with a friend and, having lunched, lay down and died in less than two hours.

Mortification is very common in Tongking and all wounds are dangerous in consequence; often they refuse to heal and gradually eat into the bone; it seems to be peculiar to the climate. The French army, I believe, suffered much in this way.

We had dirty weather to Tuan-on, the entrance to the river leading to Hué, and had in consequence two days of tumbling about in lieu of one day's fine voyaging.

The *Phu Quoc* was utterly destitute of comforts, no saloon lights, no table cloths, no sheets, in fact nothing. We had to provide our own food and our own servants to cook it, and as they all got ill we had to do without, except such tinned things as could be eaten without cooking. The

ship was owned by a Chinaman and manned by Chinese there being only one European officer, the captain, employed more for the purpose of facilitating matters with the Customs and officers of the French ports between which the *Phu Quoc* traded, than for navigating the ship which was really navigated by a Chinaman, called, by the French captain, the pilot, but called by his Chinese crew the captain.

We felt by no means secure either as regards the safety of the treasure or the ship. The former we guarded by continually watching the hatch leading to the hold but as to the latter we could only trust in Providence.

On arrival at Tuan-on we obtained a launch and again transhipped the boxes of dollars. As may be imagined we were all beginning to be heartily sick of the constant shipping and reshipping of these dollars and of the care and watchfulness they exacted. One never felt sure that some trick had not been resorted to by the Chinese, either on board the launches or on the steamer, to gain access to the hold and help themselves to a thousand or two, for we were without the proper conveniences for carrying treasure, such as a strong room, and our anxiety was increased by the fact that however few dollars might be stolen the loss would be enough to prevent our being able to make the requisite tender.

We left the disconsolate looking little handful of buildings of Tuan-on and steamed up the river for Hué, about twelve miles distant. A little way up the mouth, are still to be seen the stakes driven into the bed of the river to prevent the French ships of war from passing and on either side are the earthworks of the Annamese. We were now in Annam proper, Tongking being left to the north. The scenery of the river to Hué is rather pretty, in a tame way, the banks being overgrown with a varied foliage and here and there a trim path winding inland from the shore to the house of some mandarin.

There is a dense population judging from the number of villages, and the inhabitants defend them from attack with bamboo fences or plantations as is done in Tongking. They have the same little fondness for piracy as their Northern friends and Annam is more disturbed than Tongking on account of hostilities between the reigning King and the King who was deposed by the French, who with his followers had fled to the mountains whence they made frequent raids; the result was that many of the Annamese, for the sake of quiet, were paying taxes to both old and new Kings. The state of the country was no means settled or safe for travel, and although about three hours' journey up the river from Hué the hill country begins and there is excellent shooting to be obtained, the whole place was so infested by marauders that one could not venture on a shooting expedition.

We slept on the launch that night anchored off Hué, on the opposite side of the river, and next morning some of us went ashore to the town.

The town of Hué is a large straggling place with wretched bamboo and mud huts, except the houses of a few Chinese which are of brick. They are much to the front, the Chinese in Tongking and Annam, and seem to have the best of everything and it is not to be wondered at; they are a greatly superior race both physically and intellectually and with energy to back up their other qualifications. The notable feature of the place, here as at Hanoi, is the huge citadel in the shape of a parallelogram, the long sides being about two miles in length and the shorter sides not much less. The walls are very solid, the entrance to the citadel being above thirty feet in thickness. Inside are the Government buildings and offices and the place is neatly laid out with well-kept paths and avenues of trees.

The day after arrival was occupied in making the formal appointment for tender-

ing the \$100,000 and serving notices of this appointment on six representatives of the Government left in conduct of affairs during a temporary absence of the King. The French Resident had also to be notified. Those of us who remained on board the launch guarding the treasure spent a not unpleasant day, the fierceness of the sun and the dazzling reflection being kept off with side awnings. These were luxuries which had been wanting on our Hanoi trip.

A few boats passing occasionally, with passengers, claimed a lazy attention from us as they were paddled or yulosed slowly along, the boatmen apparently impervious and indifferent to the blinding heat and glare.

Later in the day one of these boats brought us a visitor, an old Annamese formerly a Minister of State under the old dynasty but who had thrown in his lot against the present powers. A price had been set on his head by the French but he had recently made his peace with them and the present King.

The old fellow had been connected with the business we were on, two years previously, and had learned that we had now arrived with the money for the Concession. How he learnt it, or whether he guessed it, we could not ascertain.

He spoke French like a Frenchman, having lived for years in Europe as a representative of the Annamese Government. He had been an important person in the former Court and was generally supposed to have been at the bottom of most of the political intrigues and disturbances, and to have had a hand in the treacherous uprising against the French in Hué. His occupation was now, however, gone and the Annamese Government, with that thoughtfulness which distinguishes Orientals, had since their difference with him exterminated his family root and branch, with the exception of two nieces whom he managed to hide. He himself was a murderous old rascal, who had thought no more, in his day, of ordering a man to be tortured to death than of eating his breakfast: no doubt his poverty would have induced him to risk a good deal if he saw a fair chance to a share of our dollars.

His having the knowledge that this sum was on board did not increase our sense of security nor was it reassuring when at night we saw an Annamese village about half-a-mile off being burnt and looted by pirates. We were, however, left unmolested.

The appointment to take our tender having been made for 9.30 next morning, we were under steam for the steps leading to the entrance of the Citadel at half-past six, when a new difficulty presented itself in the shallowness of the river, the launch being unable to get within a hundred yards of the landing place.

There was nothing for it but to ship the treasure into the miserable little river boats. Sampans they are called, wretched little cockle-shell things made of three planks, one for the bottom and two for the sides; so cranky that a box of treasure falling into one would infallibly have knocked a hole through her bottom. With no appliances for lowering the boxes, and with the pitifully weak Annamese coolies to do the work, we were in momentary dread of seeing the whole of our efforts defeated by one of the boxes taking a dive into the water; by dint, however, of great care an enormous amount of shouting and profuse abuse in from three to four languages the whole of the treasure was to our great relief safely lowered into various sampans, landed on *terre firma*, and deposited in mule carts which the General of the Forces, a friend of Mr. A. B., had kindly placed at our disposal, together with half-a-dozen French Artillerymen, most welcome substitutes for the puny Annamese coolies who had been swarming round, and six to ten of whom could bare-

ly lift one box. It would be hard to find more wretched-looking specimens of humanity.

Once again then we found ourselves part of a procession exciting the wonder of a gaping crowd, and once again we had the distinguished honour of being ushered into the presence of the representatives of His Majesty the King of Annam. We found these worthies about on a par with our friend the superannuated coolie both in their personal appearance and in the squalid poverty-stricken aspect of their barn-like apartments, opening out on to a parched unkept bit of garden about twenty feet square. Once again, notwithstanding the extreme heat and regardless of personal inconvenience, did we open our treasures, dazzling the eyes of these ancient individuals with the aspect of many dollars of exceeding brightness, and once again did fear of consequences overcome obvious longing to possess, so that we were suffered to return whence we came, our money in our sacks and our sacks in our boxes.

A tedious repetition followed of the dangers and troubles attending the transfer of the boxes on board the launch, but our dollars had now no longer that value which had made the care of them peculiarly responsible. Our tenders were perfected and the risk now of losing a box of treasure was merely an ordinary one covered by insurance.

It was this thought, I suppose, or the courtesy we had experienced at the hands of all other French officials that caused some of the more excitable of our party to refrain from murdering the inflated Resident at Hué who, either from crass stupidity or with intent to annoy, declined to allow us to deposit our dollars in the Treasury, after we had made our tender, thus putting us to the trouble of conveying them back to Haiphong. It was the more absurd as we happened to learn that the Hué Treasury was at that time requisitioning Haiphong for the exact sum which we proposed to deposit. Arrived on the launch, cargo and passengers, we said *adieu* to Hué for Tuan-on, and next morning at daybreak were on board the *Phu Quoc*, bound for Haiphong. But the wind blew and the sea rose and the barometer fell and behold we were in for dirty weather, the tail of a typhoon. After heading against it for some hours, making no progress, things looked so unpleasant that M. le Capitaine informed us that he had put the ship about and was running for Touron Bay, some miles south of Tuan-on, the bar of the latter place being impossible in rough weather.

The night closed in thick as pea soup and to make out the land seemed almost an impossibility. M. le Capitaine, however, professed his ability to perform the feat and in an hour or two down went the anchor and we were gratified to learn that we were safe in Touron Bay. Meantime the wind had, after a lull, suddenly shifted right round, as it often does in a typhoon, and instead of blowing off the land it was now blowing hard on.

I wonder if any ship ever rolled as that detestable *Phu Quoc* did that night, gunwales under. It was indeed a night of bliss with all the attendant luxuries of finding yourself, when lying down, one moment on your head and the next on your feet: the roar of the wind and sea, the smashing of crockery, and the whole night in darkness, there being, as I said before, no saloon lamp, and all our candles being used, up made it an experience to remember.

Day at last dawned and we then discovered the pleasing little circumstance that our careful captain had anchored us not in the Bay but outside it, exposed to the full force of the wind and with the shore not more than three hundred yards off on our lee; about as undesirable a situation as could well be imagined, and one which with a little worse holding ground or a little more wind and sea would

have wrecked us for a certainty. Had we gone ashore the chances were all against escape and the ship would have broken up in a few hours.

We had not been much taken with the system on which the *Phu Quoc* was navigated with her Chinese crew and one European officer, but the position in which we had just been placed by their combined want of knowledge, made us consider, when an hour or two later we anchored in the Bay, whether we should afford them any further opportunities of bringing us to an untimely end, or whether we should not change steamers and return two days later by the mail; time, however, being of importance to more than one of our party, and the weather clearing up rapidly, we determined to tempt fortune again and once more found ourselves journeying in her towards Haiphong.

This time the sea was like glass and the weather became perfect. During the night one of us prompted by curiosity went forward to see how things were getting on. He found M. le Capitaine, the look-out, and the man at the wheel, all fast asleep, the vessel gaily speeding along at about eight knots an hour! Decidedly the *Phu Quoc* was not a good risk for insurance against collision. However, all's well that ends well, and in course of time we saw the entrance to the river and land ahead.

Shelley, I think it is, writes of the river mingling with the ocean, but had he been with us that day as we approached the mouth of the Fleuve Rouge, he would not have said so: the point of contact between the sea and the river was as defined as if the one were a solid mass of blue and the other a solid mass of red; the line of the demarcation was most distinct and reached to the shores on either side.

We arrived in Haiphong at about three in the afternoon and then recommenced our business of landing our loathed boxes of dollars. Our labours were, however, cheered this time by the reflection that on landing and depositing them in the Haiphong Treasury we then and there buried our old man of the sea, and from that moment were once more comparatively irresponsible beings, restored to the privilege of dining together in a *café* and the luxury of sleeping on a bed.

So ended this experience of a legal tender. For nearly three weeks we had been subjected to discomforts, inconveniences, difficulties, and risks, never lying down to sleep without loaded arms alongside and liable most of the time to piratical attacks. All of this was occasioned by our having to carry actual cash instead of some *indicia* of property, equivalent in value. It seems absurd and grotesque that with all the facilities known to commerce, bills of exchange, cheques, drafts, Treasury bonds, and the thousand and one conveniences of modern finance, it should have been necessary either according to French or English law to go through so much to accomplish so little.

It does not form part of my story to tell of the pleasure trip which followed to the mines of Hongai in the Bay of Hailong, but the beauty of the scenery exacts a word or two in its praise for the benefit of future globe-trotters passing through Hongkong, and who, not minding a pirate or two, would feel inclined to give a week or ten days to a part of the world well worth seeing and little visited and where game large and small abounds.

We have left Haiphong by launch and glide down a branch of the river passing Quang Yen; we become indifferent to the monotony of the miles of flat country on either side and are on the verge of forty winks we must have passed the verge, for instead of flat river banks and muddy stream, are huge giant rocks, covered with most luxuriant vegetation, endless in the variety of their fantastic shapes, and infinite in number. Far as the eye can reach they

rise out of a deep blue sea in most admired disorder, bays, creeks, and winding channels tempting the voyager to explore mystic unknown bouds, vaguely suggested by foliage-clad peaks above the nearer islands. The sun sinks in the cloudless sky as slowly we wind our way between the isles; the silent sea-birds wheel their varied flight and jealous night steals from behind the hills and claims this loveliness until the morrow.

JOTTINGS.

BY EXUL.

III. AT THE CITY TEMPLE.

That saying of the Chinese is quite axiomatic 各有所好 as will be admitted if we freely translate it: "Everybody has his likes." Whilst we purpose writing shortly of visits to the Tower of London, to the House of Commons, and elsewhere, we should like to say a little now of a place which to visit would be amongst the first "likes" of not a few readers of the *N.-C. D. N.*

For the City Temple is a remarkably cosmopolitan and popular object of interest to visitors to the great city, and especially Americans are to be found there. In fact one always expects to hear the familiar American accent at Shakespeare's tomb and in Dr. Parker's great "meeting-house." So that we were not at all surprised on the occasion of the visit in question to find ourselves neighbours with an ex-editor of an American paper, and to have the advantage of his piquant comments.

As we stood in the crowd—for there is always a crowd, extending out into the Holborn Viaduct—waiting for the signal which throws open all unoccupied seats, our friend and ourselves had opportunity for exchanging impressions of the great preacher, whom we had both heard before. We agreed as to the loss sustained by the stage in such a man as Dr. Parker; but also as to the gain accruing to Nonconformity, in this its first and outstanding genius.

There are many things to interest and charm in the beautiful Temple; painting, gilding, and decoration help, whilst music is much laid under contribution; we counted 39 singers in the choir—and some of them such singers as one rarely hears; we counted several violins and a cornet or two; and one could not leave out of count the talented organist who presides at the "king of instruments."

But who comes for those things? It is the remarkable personality hidden under the plain Geneva gown of the strange-looking man who slowly ascends the platform stairs that has drawn this multitude, and kept them there many years. It is difficult to understand wherein is the great charm of the preacher, and still more difficult to describe it. Much, very much, is effected by a remarkable voice, managed to perfection, from the least whisper to the loudest roar. We have just received and opened your issue of 26th November, and note the wise advice given therein to budding Shanghai speakers, some of whom (*Pecavi!* I merely quote!) "mumble and stumble, are often inaudible, sometimes inconsistent, and generally dull to a degree." Would that Dr. Parker could deliver a course of lectures to those gentlemen! You would alter the verdict soon, doubt not. Recently we heard a professor of elocution—one of the first in his profession—aver that he could compel the attention of any audience by adhering to a few simple rules; and he proved it, before as noisy an assembly as usually falls to the lot of a public speaker.

Now Dr. Parker does just this—he compels attention, and instead of the irritating and everlasting coughing and throat-clearing incident to ordinary services, all are so

eager to catch every word that the bronchial business is postponed indefinitely.

But beyond the manner is also the matter of the preacher. Who but this unique genius would dare to say in prayer: "We would have a feast to-night—a feast of the Tabernacle. And we would call Jesus to the feast, but have no wine, save of His making." . . . "May there be no fool in the house to-night?" "Many are here in a spirit of wonder, curiosity, worldliness and irreverence. But it is not beyond the power of the Cross to work a miracle in such. This is our hope, or it were not worth while our preaching!"

And so the great service proceeds—quietly, reverently, systematically—much helped by the fact that printed "service papers" are issued for every Sunday—and the vast audience of lawyers and actors, preachers and business men, students and travellers, with many, though less than usual, of the gentler sex,—all hang on the preacher's utterances, smiling and even laughing at the wit and humour here, weeping at the pathos there, and swayed as one man by a voice.

"These are the dukes of Edom."

Who but Dr. Parker dare take such a text? And yet from him it seems right and proper, and a yet deeper hush falls on the vast audience as he opens his discourse, and all eyes watch the clean-shaven face and massive head, which slowly emphasises with a series of deliberate nods the first word of the text: "These—these are the dukes of Edom? Can we see them? What were they?"

"They were the leaders, the first men, the dukes, the dukes."

"Had they names?"

"Yes."

"Great names?"

"By some thought great. Duke Timnah, Duke Aliah, Duke Jetheth. . . . These are the dukes of Edom."

"But where are they? Where is their memorial? Where is the child that kissed them?"

"They are gone, all gone. *Sic transit gloria mundi*. They are gone, yet not gone; for who can trace the influence of any man? Do not think that you are of no consequence because you are not among the Dukes of Edom. You may be good, and you may be great, and yet you may not be known on the other side of the street in which you live."

But we are painfully conscious that we do the preacher an injustice by the bald reproduction of his words. To be understood, Dr. Parker must be heard and seen; for the look, the gesture, the man behind the voice are parts of a unique whole. We have never elsewhere heard a man who could so make words to live before one.

But even in cold print this looks daring, does it not?

"What do you know about *Rameses I*? Now don't sit there looking as if you knew all about him! you know *nothing*, absolutely nothing, about him, and ninety-nine hundredths of you couldn't even spell his name!"

"Did you ever hear of a man in the Bible called Joseph?"

"Yes, I think I've heard of him."

"What did he do?"

"Well, he saved the people of Egypt in the time of famine."

"What did *Rameses* the first do?"

"I don't know."

"No, and I don't know, and the archaeologists don't know, and no one does know. Can you tell me anything about *Nero*?"

"Yes, I think I know a little better about him. He was very cruel to Christians."

"Do you want him back?"

"Oh no! not in England—not in England. No, thank you!"

"Did you ever hear of a man in his day called Paul—of poor contemptible presence: a mean, bleared little dwarf? To-day, if he arrived in London, I should love to see him. Of course we shouldn't

believe him—we have outlived him. But still we should like to see the hand which was stretched out, when Agripa said: 'Paul, thou art permitted to speak for thyself.' We should like to see the man who said: 'I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ'. . . . 'He loved me, and gave Himself for me'. . . . 'This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.' We know nothing of *Rameses* the First, and we don't want *Nero* back; but we should love to see the apostle Paul who sent his love to all the churches, and never turned away the poor from his poor door. *That is fame!*"

From here the preacher proceeded to describe the various kinds of "fame" possible to all, the first of these being a "household fame," which he would covet more than any other. "You can be so kind that the very dog shall know it; you can be a Duke at home, and a man of high renown at your own fireside—a really great loving soul within the four corners of your own home."

But the plentifulness of our shorthand notes, and the warmth of our admiration for the man may exceed the patience of our readers. So we hasten to conclude by remarking that Dr. Parker often finishes as unexpectedly and abruptly as well, as Dr. Parker. For suggestiveness and for inspiring and compelling attention and thought, we know no other preacher like him. May he long be spared—a unique man with a unique message.

CYCLING ROUND THE WORLD.

IN DARKEST CHINA.

A LAND OF SLAVERY AND INFANTICIDE.

SIXTY-THIRD ARTICLE.

Chaotungfu.

We took our ease for one day at Tungchuan. Mr. and Mrs. W. Tremberh, a pleasant *Wet-Country* couple, who hope ultimately to lead a host of Chinese into paths of grace, made us welcome and comfortable. They urged a longer halt. But winter waits on no cyclist, and we had yet nearly two thousand miles to travel in China. So we pleaded haste and pressed on.

A convenient near-at-hand town gate provided an opportunity for slipping away unheeded. We ran by the side of the sturdy guardian wall, as broad and as eternal as the blocks in the old wall of Jerusalem, and we spun over the plain to where the hill dipped invitingly. In half-an-hour we were climbing the mountains, and in an hour we looked back on the town of Tungchuan lying among the trees on the far side of the vale.

The country was the same as it had been for weeks before, and as it was to be for weeks to come—bare, barren, a prey to chill winds, with desolation everywhere. The first afternoon out we were pelted with rain. The mountain path was high impassable, but a good Buddhist priest, within the past year, had made a causeway of boulders. With the wind moaning fretfully, and us shivering wretchedly, an uncomfortable night was passed at an uncomfortable little hamlet called Hungshihai.

In the morning there was a turbulent torrent to cross. It came tearing out of the mountains. There being no cycling, we were astride mules, and time and time again we searched for a fording place. We sent men across carrying our bicycles. They were up to their waists in water. One comrade was swept off his feet. Machine and man disappeared, but other men plunged in and rescued both. Then with manoeuvring and pattering and Chinese epithets—peculiarly suitable to mules—the

three animals were got across, and we with them.

We might, however, just as well have waded and got wet at the start. No sooner did we commence climbing again than a drenching rain-storm engulfed us. The cold was intense. We were blue, our teeth chattered, the very blood in our veins seemed frozen. Lunn, who had been in bad health since Talifu, suffered the most. It was necessary to call a halt at the first but we came to, a poor, woe-begone hovel, but giving shelter.

Next day, despite heavy clouds and frequent rain, we rode over the plain of Ichehhsien to Ichehhsien itself. We arrived early. It was market day, and as we rode down the main street, there was a rowdy commotion. A crowd of, maybe, two thousand persons followed. Most of them had never seen a foreigner before. Certainly they had never seen a bicycle. Consequently, there was plenty of hustling excitement. Folks were afraid. If one of us fixed his gaze on a man, that man became uneasy, shuffled about, then turned and slunk away. He had heard of the evil-eye.

A corpulent, fungus-faced fellow came and examined the means by which we used our nether limbs. He marvelled at the fact that we actually bent our knees. He had always understood that foreigners had unbendable legs, that in the country over the ocean men had to sleep leaning against the wall, for if they lay down they could never get up again! However, was it true—and here he whispered and became confidential—was it true that foreigners had a hole through their breasts so that they could be slung on a bamboo and carried from place to place? That bendable-leg-business seemed to have shaken his faith in the wonders of foreigners. Still he was eager for knowledge.

"True?" one of us said, "why, of course it's true! Would you like to see the hole through my breast?" There was the straining of half-a-hundred necks as with a semblance of mystery a shirt front was unbuttoned. Here, indeed, was a curiosity, a real, live foreigner with daylight streaming through him! Every face exhibited eager expectancy.

Then what a change to glum disappointment when it was seen the foreigner was as other men—even as the Chinese. The corpulent, fungus-faced fellow turned on his heels. We were not foreigners, he intimated, or at least very poor specimens of them.

However, the mob was good-humoured, and when two of us went marketing to purchase pork and potatoes, we had fifty attendants. The best potatoes were picked for us. When we expressed a liking for a particular section of a porker, and the flabby-cheeked butcher had some disinclination to cut the animal up to suit us, there was a shout: "Why don't you do what the distinguished foreign teachers want?" And the butcher sullenly complied, while a score of eyes watched that we were not cheated.

There was much talk in the crowd as to why we came to China on our "feet machines." It was generally agreed we were missionaries. That was because we looked so good, and saintly, and innocent. At night somebody sent us a present of tea. We were much obliged, and drank the unpalatable stuff. Then somebody else sent poached eggs floating in thin treacle. Again we were much obliged, and—waiting till all backs were turned—we tossed the concoction out of the window. We were not going to spoil hospitality by suggesting that poached eggs and treacle lacked gastronomical harmony.

All the following morning we did nothing but trudge our way, ankle-deep, down the bed of a stream. At noon we branched off among the hills, and through filthy and ill-smelling villages. The ignorant, superstitious people fled at our approach. We

came across a solitary house, standing by a rock. Only four children were in sight, miserable starvelings, all naked and caked with dirt, regular little savages, with matted hair. Two were gathering sticks, but the eldest was wallowing in pig-muck, taking charge of the younger. When they spied us, all four ran among the bushes, and cowered behind a tree till we had passed.

A sudden drop brought us in sight of the brown waters of the river Nialan. Out of the mountains came a waterfall leaping frothingly. The precipice was of three enormous blocks, titanicly Baalbec-huge, and in the throat of the gorge lay masses of rock. We wound down a serpentine path, crawled under the boulders, skipped from jutting stone to stone with the waters seething around amid roars of thunder from the tumbling cataract. So we gained the opposite bank. A suspension bridge spanned the Nialan, an unwieldy, jingling structure, with two frightful creatures—one apparently in the agony of toothache, and the other evidently a facial contortionist—at one end, and at the other end a big, bilious frog, and a snarling cat, to which a tail had been appended as an afterthought. We dropped into Chiangti.

With a hilarious, jeering gang of tatterdemalions at our heels, we searched for a sleeping place. Ultimately we secured a make-shift apology, but had to hunt for boards to provide a door. In the morning as we were leaving, several obstreperous youths slipped up among the rocks of the adjoining hill, and pitched stones. It was quite a piece of guerilla warfare. They sprang for shelter from rock to rock, seeking opportunities to maim us, but when we saluted after them, revolver in hand, they careered off at breakneck pace to their precious village.

For two hours and forty-five minutes we climbed, and climbed, and climbed. We left the dusky, black-lipped ravine, and rose, with infinite labour, till above the level of the other hills. But this hill was highest of all. There was no cultivation, only a few thin, sickly pines, that became thinner and more sickly the higher we went. Right on the summit stood one bare pole, a landmark to the jagged bleak ridges around. We were on the highest part of any road in China at that moment. The altitude was 9,100 feet.

That day we passed under a magnificent memorial arch. It was to the memory of a good dame, who had been a widow for good-n-s knows how many years. The Emperor of China had expressed his approval of such virtue. Such an expression meant that the relatives of the lady had to impoverish themselves in building an arch. There are thousands of these erections in China. But this particular one was unusually excellent. It was of a grey chalky stone, comprised three arches with abundant chiselling, and had quaint jutting fluted eaves. The great slabs had an infinity of stores in bas-relief. High up, centrally, was a saucer-eyed, wrinkle-browed dragon, well gilded. Below, on a series of shelves, were carved figures, not of meek, mitred saints, but of rollicking personages, overjoyed with something or other. One gentleman was in much danger of tumbling off his perch, so excited was he, finishing a spirited break-down dance.

Now and then we came across a good hard stretch of ground where we could ride our machines. But the incessant rains generally provided twelve inches of clay, that made headway slow and wearisome.

We were having a frugal breakfast at a tiny place called Touyuen—just some rice and boiled scraps of pork—when the landlord and his two sons came into the chamber. They had tapers in their hands, and we were a little suspicious that they were about to make gods of us and worship us. But their worship was directed to a wooden tablet. They were doing homage to their ancestors. We objected to this, not because we had any conscientious scruples to the

conciliation of defunct grandparents, who might be visiting the palimpsest of the moon, but we resented religious ritualistic observances during meal-time. Besides, a pair of damp stockings were drying over the ancestral tablet. So we turned the worshippers away. "These three rooms are ours," we said; "we are paying you the extra, vagrant sum of fourpence halfpenny for the use of them; kindly wait till we have gone and then give your ancestors a double dose of tapers." And the good folks were not a morsel offended.

That afternoon we ran into the town of Chaotungfu, heavy-walled, overcrowded, and with the reputation of being the darkest spot of all dark spots in west-central China. The streets were wretchedly narrow, and twice as busy as Cheapside; such a higgledy-piggledy mass of almost-endowed humanity that one felt bewildered. There was no escaping a rowdy greeting. "Here are three foreign devils on strange feet carriages," was a shout that travelled electrically. We kept close together, and asked to be shown to the principal hotel. "Get on your carriage; we want to see you ride," was the answer we got. The shops were all open to the street, and the counters made excellent grand-stands for the excited Celestials. Men with half-shaven heads escaped from the barbers to see us. Several water-carriers were upset in the hubbub. A perfect pandemonium raged. "Foreign devils" and "Jesus" were the principal cries. In the throng we could go, but slowly. Every time we asked for an inn there were calls that we should ride. So it continued for a good half-hour.

Then six soldiers from the yamen suddenly appeared, and we were led at once to the "Inn of the Honourable Ascent." Ten minutes later, while we were scraping some of the dirt off us, a note in English was pushed into our hands. It was from Mr. Sam. Pollard, of the Bible Christian Mission. "We have heard about you and read about you," he wrote. "Don't stop at an inn; come at once to our house and make it your home." So off we went to the *Jesu-tang* (Jesus Hall), to be welcomed first by Mr. and Mrs. Pollard, and afterwards by two of their co-workers, and to have an English meal laid before us. And that night there also arrived at the *Jesu-tang* a big bundle of letters and newspapers that had been travelling per foot messenger through China. Then—four months after it was all over—we read papers with accounts of the Queen's Jubilee.

A quiet couple of days' rest passed all too quickly. One afternoon we strolled round the summit of the walls. They are about fifteen feet wide, and would provide an admirable cycling track. We halted over the principal gate to watch the heterogeneous incomings and outgoings. It was a noisy, busy scene. Within five minutes 340 persons went through the gate. At regular intervals round the wall were projections with fetid pits of rubbish at their base. Here the bodies of hundreds of infants are thrown. A Chinaman only counts his sons. Girls are unnecessary encumbrances. And as Chaotungfu is a dismally poor city, and there is no Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, quite seventy-five per cent of the daughters born are done to death. Girl babies from a few days old to three years of age are pitched over the ramparts. They are not always killed first. The pariah dogs may often be seen gnawing the arm of an infant yet alive. The missionaries told us it is no infrequent thing to find two or three baby corpses in the course of an afternoon's stroll.

As there are no work-uses, the bodies of the poor are also thrown outside the city. The wolves and the hyenas come down in the night, and when day breaks there is no trace left of the unfortunate dead. Good Samaritanism is a thing not practised in Chaotungfu. Should a man fall sick by the roadside, no one brings the

oil and the twopenny to succour him. If he dies in your house you are put to the expense of burying him. Therefore, the best thing to do is to leave him alone and let the wild animals do their work.

Chaotungfu is indeed notorious for its inhumanity. The punishments inflicted for crime are horribly barbarous. Not long ago a woman, guilty of infidelity, was strung up by the neck with her toes just touching the ground. There she hung till death closed her misery. A murderer was crucified on one of the city gates, red-hot nails being hammered through his wrists. The wretch tried to shorten the agony by battering his head against the woodwork. So the authorities provided a pillow to prevent anything of the kind. It took four days for him to die.

But it is for providing the whole of western China with its slave girls that Chaotungfu is famously infamous. The majority of the girls saved from a pitching over the city wall are kept for the purpose of sale. There are merchants in the business who make a large profit by taking up groups of little girls to Yunnan. Poor people—who cannot afford the necessary wedding gifts when their son marries—will purchase a child of three or four years and keep her till she is of marriageable age. Most of these Chaotungfu girls are sold for servants in the yamens. Many, however, are sold into concubinage. A common ordinary drudge of a girl is sold for about five shillings. A pretty, healthy girl will, maybe, fetch a couple of pounds, rarely more. But this selling into bondage is by no means regarded as a degradation. A girl whose young years have been spent amidst grinding poverty regards it rather as a considerable step up in life when she becomes the property of a mandarin's wife, who clothes her well and feeds her.

All round Chaotungfu lies abundance of silver, copper, coal, and iron. But the Chinese have very primitive ways of getting the minerals. They admit foreigners are the best at that kind of thing because they have the power of seeing underground. Some years ago two Japanese came to the city exploring for silver. The authorities wanted to test their powers. They buried some silver ingots on the parade ground. Then they took the Japanese a walk that way. "Is there any silver about here?" they asked. "No," said the Japanese, "this is not the kind of soil in which silver is found." Then the buried metal was produced from under their very feet, amidst the loud hilarity of all Celestial officialdom. Since which time the Chaotungese have had a prodigious contempt for foreigners.

JOHN FOSTER FRASER.
S. EDWARD LUNN.
FRANCIS H. LOVE.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Reliable Remedies. — In wounds, bruises, sprains, glandular swellings, enlarged veins, neuralgic pains and rheumatism, the application of this soothing Ointment to the affected parts not only gives the greatest ease, but likewise cures the complaint. The Pills much assist in banishing the tendency to rheumatism and similar painful disorders, whilst the Ointment cures the local ailment. The Pills remove the constitutional disturbance and regulate every impaired function of every organ throughout the human body. The cure is neither temporary nor superficial, but permanent and complete, and the disease rarely recurs, so perfect has been the purification performed by these searching yet harmless preparations.

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CYCLING IN ENGLAND.

The deadly dulness of the English "off" cycling season is now absolutely at its worst, and the air is full—not of cycling tours, and evening spin and social wheeling functions—but of petty controversies among cycling clubs, papers and notabilities. There is a three-cornered row in progress as to which cycling paper has the largest circulation, there is jealousy as to who is the real proposer of the suggested Institute of Cycle Engineers, and actually argument has been raised as to whether Holbein in the removal of the fracture of his thigh fell up the kitchen stairs or down!

To keep up some interest in cycling affairs re-discoveries of old and well-known facts are being made, as for example the unearthing of the Highway Act of sixty years ago, and extracting from it a clause which imposes the compulsion on carriage users to keep to the left-hand side of the road when passing traffic!

Other pettinesses arising out of a dull time are the appeals to the National Cyclists' Union to settle a squabble in a club between its Secretary and its Chairman, to settle another squabble between two clubs as to which is the elder, and to assist in the prosecution of one cyclist by another in a running-down case.

The shortest day has, however, been passed, and the coming of spring will soon set us free from these tiny pettifogging affairs, and our roads will be rideable, and our paths once more be the scenes of races and records by men now wintering in America, Australia, Algiers, and anywhere but at home.

Although the season is quite dead, the fact that our best tracks are cement-surfaced enables men occasionally to snatch a chance on a decent day in mid-winter to lower one of the softer records. Thus lately the tandem quarter has been reduced from 31 to 30.3.5th secs, but this is so far below the single bicycle record that it only attracts notice as an unseasonable rather than an exceptionally remarkable performance.

"New Amateurism" is being discussed, the very title implying that current amateurism is not what it claims to be. The newness of the idea is that men shall be called amateurs who really do ride for the love of the thing, a class that was disgusted by the presence of so many veiled amateurs in their ranks, and even more disgusted by the subsequent attempt by the Union to weed them out by a licensing process, which was of small value as a sorting machine, and vexatiously inquisitive (even as is the income-tax paper) to a bona fide amateur. The cure and the disease have between them reduced amateurism to so low a level, that the best amateurs of to-day are not so fast as those of a year ago, if the record books may be accepted as evidence of speed.

The district of Reigate in Surrey was notorious for its police activity against cyclists, and the tradesmen of the locality have recently succeeded in a combined appeal for the removal from this district of the police superintendent, on the grounds—very solid ones too—of the injury done to trade by the practical banishment of cycling visitors from the neighbourhood. The officer's action in the new sphere to which he has been transferred will be watched with considerable interest by cyclists. One of the local constables in the same corner of England is keeping up the traditional exaggeration of speed estimating peculiar to a policeman, for he has

been testifying to a cyclist travelling, distance of 400 yds. in fifteen seconds which is a speed nearer sixty than fifty miles an hour.

It is rumoured that restrictive legislation will be introduced in America to prohibit such public endurance contests as the recent Six Days' Grind, and there are some who, on this side, equally desire the suppression of female racing. Neither of these events can be considered sound or healthy forms of sport or recreation, but if the legislature has to step in and protect unwelcome persons from each and every form of excessive athleticism or undesirable exhibition, that is not absolutely dangerous, the very folk who now clamour for restriction would then be raising a cry for liberty, and would sneer at grandmotherly legislation.

The Midland Cycle Show has made a new departure in handing over a couple of hundred pounds to the Birmingham Hospitals and Dispensaries, out of the profits of the annual exhibition of cycles in the Metropolitan Midlands. The Stanley stores its profits to preserve the continuity of Shows from year to year, and the National returns its surplus year by year by way of bonus to its exhibitors, but this charitable disposal of funds in Birmingham is a most excellent example of genuine charity.

London, 7th January.

NAVAL EXPEDITION IN NORTH BORNEO.

A REBEL FORT CAPTURED.

[Special to *Singapore Free Press*.]

Labuan, 30th January.

H.M.S. *Swift* and H.M.S. *Plover* returned to Labuan last night.

These gunboats had been engaged on an expedition against Talleh up the Membakut River.

The rebel stronghold was captured, eight rebels being killed and many wounded.

There were no casualties on our side.

Talleh, the leader of the insurgents, succeeded in making his escape.

A later telegram received to-day announces that his head has been brought in.

There is a general belief that Talleh is Mat Salleh's lieutenant.

Commenting on the above the *Free Press* says:—Recent precedent to the contrary has been put aside and two British gunboats have been allowed to assist the North Borneo Company in dealing with one of the rebel leaders. It is unfortunately not Mat Salleh, but it is at any rate the next best man that has been brought to book. The scene was the Membakut river, and a naval contingent of officers and blue-jackets, from the *Swift* and *Plover*, in the shape of a boat expedition, was guided up to Talleh's stockaded fort, which was rushed and captured with loss to the natives. Although Talleh got clear away during the attack yet it appears that, possibly by some of the Company's Dyaks, he was followed up, killed, and his head brought in for identification. There is a fine orthodox Borneo twang about this bit of "head-hunting." Talleh will now cease from troubling, and it is to be hoped that, encouraged by the co-operation of vessels of the Navy, the North Borneo Government may at last succeed in laying hands on that arch disturber of the peace, Mat Salleh.—*Hongkong Daily Press*.

H.E. LI HUNG-CHANG ON THE SITUATION.

We give below the text of the interview with H.E. Li Hung-chang, which appeared in the *New York Herald* of the 3rd ult. It is a disappointing document, though it serves Mr. John Russell Young, formerly U.S. Minister at Peking, as the text of a three-column article on the situation in China. In introducing the interview to its readers, the *Herald* says:—

"So many conflicting and irresponsible reports have appeared in sensational newspapers concerning China and the Powers that the *Herald* instructed its correspondent in Peking to seek an audience with China's great statesman and ask His Excellency to make a statement regarding the crisis to the Western world through the columns of this newspaper. Li Hung-chang received our correspondent courteously, and said he was glad of the opportunity offered him by the *Herald* to present China's side of the case to the people of the Occident. This interview may be regarded as the first expression of Chinese official opinion respecting the recent seizure of Chinese territory by European Powers.

"Mr. John Russell Young, former Minister to China, and a strong personal friend of Li Hung-chang and General Grant, says, in a letter to the *Herald*, that China is the glacier among nations—moving inches in a century. The problem of China, he declares, is one that cannot be solved in a moment by any buoyant young war lord at the head of a crusade, even if bearing the cross in one hand and the sword in another."

The following is the complete text of the interview:—

Peking, Saturday.—According to instructions received from the *Herald*, I requested an interview with Li Hung-chang, informing him that the *New York Herald* offered the publicity of its columns for any statement that China desired to make to the Western world in respect to the actual crisis in the East.

The great statesman received the *Herald's* correspondent very courteously, and replied that China was anxious that the Western people should understand thoroughly matters as they were, and that he could not wish for a better medium for presenting China's case, both to America and Europe, than that offered him by the *Herald*. His Excellency's views are given herewith in the following interview, which he has approved:—

GERMANY VIOLATED ALL TREATIES.

"The forcible occupation of Kiaochow by Germany is a direct violation of existing treaties and of international law.

"The pretext made for this act of war was the murder of two missionaries by robbers in the interior of the province of Shantung. The Chinese government offered immediate and full redress for this outrage—punishment of the criminals, dismissal of the local officials, and large compensation for all losses.

"Anxious to avoid hostile acts, the Chinese troops were withdrawn from Kiaochow when the Germans landed, and in spite of strong public feeling prevailing throughout the country for the defence of Chinese territory against aggression, my government has not sent reinforcements to Kiaochow.

"Outlaws exist in China as in all countries. Neither treaties, law, nor religion can entirely suppress crime anywhere in the world, though they condemn and punish the criminals. There are places in every country where lawlessness abounds, and to such a place in Shantung German missionaries determined to go, knowing that the inhabitants themselves were often victims of these bandits.

CHINA HAS NOT YET RECOVERED.

"Unfortunately, China has not yet recovered from the effects of the late war and our country requires a period of peace to carry out the work of reform lately begun.

"Of late years, from instruction and observation, the Chinese have come to regard the countries of the Western world as models, and even greater in justice than in arms.

Is it just to oppress us while we are struggling to emerge from the restraints of our ancient civilisation, while improvement and progress steadily continue? Should China be distressed by having her shores invaded and her territory occupied because of an occurrence which Western countries would deal with by law and not by war—an unexpected incident, deplored by my government and followed by full redress?

"Our desire is to preserve our territory intact and to steadily improve it as a field open to all countries equally for the development of commerce."

FRENCH DESIGNS ON HAINAN AND WHAT IS TO BECOME OF THE VALLEY OF THE WEST RIVER.

CONTRIBUTED TO THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."

There is no doubt that the French intend to annex the Island of Hainan sooner or later—probably sooner—and it behoves the British to see that their acquiescence to that event, when it takes place, is conditional to the British becoming heirs to the valley of the West River.

If the reader will take the trouble to look at the map of China he will readily observe that the area of the Island of Hainan is almost equal that of the West River Valley, and therefore the cession of the latter to Great Britain would only be a fair equivalent to the annexation of Hainan by France. The French could hardly, unreasonable as they are, object to such an arrangement, for the whole of the trade of the West River is carried on with the British colony of Hongkong and in British vessels and the bulk of that trade is British trade also.

It is true that the whole of the trade of the Island of Hainan is carried on with the British colonies of Hongkong and Singapore and that there are on the island a great many natives who have spent a large portion of their lives in British possessions in the Straits Settlements, and many others who have relations there, but as the French are now intent on the possession of this valuable island, recognising their folly in not seizing it when last at war with China, it would be well to waive our claims to that portion of the crumbling Chinese Empire in favour of possession of the West River Valley, more especially as the possession of that valley would enable us to assert our influence in the central portion of the vast valley of the Yangtze and carry out our view as to the conservation of the independence of that part of China. British policy must in the end, no matter what uninformed or interested politicians at present assert, be directed to the removal of the Chinese capital to Nanking, or another point on the Yangtze, and the establishment of popular elected assemblies for assisting in governing the numerous and concrete people inhabiting that fertile valley; the village elders would form the electorate.

There is another point of great importance in the matter of these approaching territorial changes. On the south-west of Hainan is the excellent and land-locked harbour of Yulingkan, only distant about sixty miles from the direct track of vessels bound from the south to China, capable of being converted into a second Port Arthur,

or a Bizerta, and of far more importance than Port Arthur in that it commands the route of the whole of the China trade, except that carried on with America across the Pacific. It would be no light matter, therefore, to allow a great naval power like France, with abundant coal supplies close at hand in Tongking to occupy such an important strategical position unless it was stipulated that this point was not to be fortified and some equivalent was conceded to us for such a change. Yulingkan was in the old sailing ship days a favourite resort of vessels bound up the China Sea, especially during the north-east monsoon, when vessels ran in for shelter during a blow and to refit and obtain fresh provisions for the crews. There are quite a number of graves of seamen who have been buried there in past times, the spot now being overgrown with jungle, but well known to the natives of the locality, who pointed it out to the writer many years ago.

The trade of Hainan is capable of considerable development were the island in the possession of a civilised power, and there are two excellent harbours, one Chunlan on the north-east coast and the other Heungpo on the west coast, which would be much visited were the whole island thrown open to trade. Chunlan is the headquarters of the junk trade with Singapore, and Heungpo, although not possessing any trade of great importance at present, has great possibilities, as the largest river in the island discharges into the sea here. Yulingkan itself can never be a trading port of any consequence, for the adjoining country is mountainous and sparsely populated; its only value lies in its strategical possibilities as a naval stronghold.

FOREIGN JOURNALISTS UNDER THE NEW TREATIES.

Under this heading the *Japan Times*, which as a rule steers a pretty straight course, contrary to this laudable habit tries to obscure the questions which form the subject of its remarks. Young barristers often make the mistake in opening a case to say that they cannot see that the other side has a case at all so that the case is practically undefended. It does not take many minutes, however, to convince them that the case is defended, and as a rule, it goes against them. The *Japan Times* makes the same mistake, but is probably not so very much mistaken in the assumption that the wounded vanity of its Yokohama contemporaries will prompt them to pursue a false scent that leads them away from the main issue. We are too old a hand to be so easily caught. We therefore skip the whole wordy argument and come to the few words that, after all, are the essence of it. They are the following:—

"We have no mandate from those in power to speak in their name on this matter, but from what we know about their views and policy, we think it safe to assure our contemporaries in the open ports, that there is no cause for alarm about the fate of their papers under the new treaties."

That is the little kernel of meat that remains when the husk of meaningless verbiage is peeled off. The *Japan Times* has no mandate to speak—it would not matter if it had, as nothing it prints can be pleaded as law in a Court of Law—it knows something about the views and policy of those in power, and so do we—and presumably our knowledge of them dates much further back than that of any one on our contemporary's staff; it thinks it safe—so does the boy who goes skating on the millpond and breaks through the ice—to assure its contemporaries in the open ports, etc., etc. Very good, very good of our Tokio contemporary,

but—what a curse to people's peace of mind these but's are—what is the security worth? Not as much, we are afraid, as one sheet of the paper that the *Japan Times* is printed on. Our contemporary must not forget that most of the editors of treaty port papers are hard-headed, sober-minded, business men, and that some of them own their papers and their stock and plant, so that they have to look at the question from a standpoint very much different from that of the editor of the *Japan Times*, who to-day may be the editor of that paper at so and so much a month, to-morrow the secretary of a Minister or of a Government Department at so and so much a month, or something or anything else. Hence his airy confidence in a state of affairs that whatever shape it may assume will not endanger a cent of his property. We have the same confidence in the liberality of Marquis Ito and Count Inouye, but that will not help us over the title of the letter of the law, and Art. VI of the Press law says:

"No person except a Japanese male subject, twenty years old, or upward, shall be permitted to become the publisher, editor, or printer of a newspaper."

In our issue of March 27th, 1897, we have discussed the whole question and pointed out the impossibility of applying this law to foreign newspaper offices so that we shall not go over the same ground again. But we must point out to the *Japan Times* a few of the conclusions to which its arguments expose it. What it says in other words is this: "Of course we cannot explain Art VI of the Press Law away out of the Code so that a blank would be left in its place, but we and everybody else are going to consider it as a blank. Now do you the same. We are not going to cut the thread by which this sword is suspended over your heads, you may take our word for it. Of course, that only applies to this particular law, and you may not and must not consider any other law also as optional in its application."

But why not? Are there Japanese laws of less binding force than others? If we accept one as optional in our favour we must accept another that is against us and in favour of some one else, and what would such a state of affairs lead to? An honest man will have no hesitation to put his sign and seal to a promise or contract he makes, and experience teaches that the people who endeavour to escape that formality by saying "you may depend upon me" are to be thoroughly distrusted. We demand rational treatment in this question as in other questions, and we shall be perfectly satisfied of the good faith of the Japanese Government if the words "except a Japanese male subject" are expunged from Art. VI of the Press law and if other articles of it are so revised as to oppose no technical and financial impossibilities to foreigners editing and publishing papers in Japan in any language they choose. Otherwise Art. VI will be like one of those pistols that are believed not to be loaded, but which at odd times go off and kill somebody. In a few months therefore we shall make it our business to bring all the questions involved to the notice of the proper quarters, and then we shall know whether the present fair promises will leave anything tangible. The editor of the *Japan Times* no doubt means well, but his office seems to be a long way from the business end of the paper, which we here in Yokohama have always close at our elbows, and hence we know more about what is good for us.—*Eastern World*.

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Law Reports.

H.B.M.'s CIVIL SUMMARY COURT.

Shanghai, 15th February.

Before H. P. WILKINSON, Esq.,
Acting Chief Justice.

BROADWAY DRAPERY CO. v. R. GIBSON.

Plaintiffs claimed \$18.65 for drapery goods supplied to the defendant and \$2.75 for interest. The account, it was explained, had been owing since 1895. The defendant not putting in an appearance judgment went for the plaintiff by default, for the amount of the claim, the interest not being allowed.

18th February.

LO AH-ZOON v. CURTIS.

This was a claim for \$79 alleged to be due to the plaintiff for wages, etc. There being no appearance for the plaintiff the case was adjourned until 10.30 a.m. on the following day.

19th February.

This case, involving a claim of \$79.20 for wages due, etc., had been adjourned from the previous day owing to the non-appearance of the plaintiff.

Mr. Curtis keeps a boarding house at 8, Canton Road and the plaintiff had been in his employ for the last three and a half months as butler. He was engaged at \$12 a month, the defendant keeping in hand fifteen days' pay. He had asked for his wages that were due to him but had not received them. On the 14th inst. he had to submit an account of the crockery which showed that six glasses had been broken, five of them being broken by customers. Mr. Curtis told him that he must replace them, whereupon he replied that he could not until he was paid his wages. Mr. Curtis then struck him and ordered him out of the house. With regard to the rest of the claim, the balance was due to other servants who were engaged by him. This last matter was agreed to by Mr. Curtis at the time of the engagement. By the defendant; he was authorised to hire the other boys.

Mr. Curtis was sworn and gave his version of the case, admitting that the boys were in his house. He did not send them away, a fact he was in a position to prove. The rate of wages was correct, but it was distinctly understood that when the inventory was taken on the 14th of every month plaintiff was to be held responsible for all breakages and deficiencies, the amount of which he was to stop out of his own and the other boys' wages respectively. The first month plaintiff acted as butler he got on very well and although there was a deficiency amounting to some seven dollars, witness did not stop anything, believing that he was really trying to do his best. The next month however he became very careless, and came very late in the morning—an example which the other boys were not slow to follow—and refused to take notice of anything that was said to him. He became so careless that the guests at his house had to complain and his behaviour was furthermore having a marked influence upon the others. After receiving a complaint from a gentleman, he made up his mind to reduce plaintiff and employ another butler. He had no intention of discharging him or in fact any of the staff. On the 15th of the month the day he paid the wages he called the plaintiff into the office and spoke to him about deficiencies, ordering him to make them good. Plaintiff then said to him: "What fashion, you belong thief, you want to

steal my wages." With that witness boxed his ears. The other boys were in the office at the time and plaintiff saying something to them in Chinese the whole lot left the place in a body. The other boys had no cause whatever for complaint but were obliged to go because it was customary among the Chinese for all to leave if one did. The result was that he was put to the greatest inconvenience.

Plaintiff addressing the witness: "I never speak you thief, you liar."

His Lordship said it was clear that there was an arrangement that the plaintiff should pay the other boys and he should allow him to sue on their behalf. He found that plaintiff was entitled to a month and a half's wages and the other boys to a month's wages. The plaintiff, however, would have to make good the deficiency on the stock, etc., to the defendant and also pay the costs of the hearing, as he was not present yesterday when the matter came in the list. He further advised Curtis to let the affair drop.

H.B.M.'s POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 15th February.

Before H. E. FULFORD, Esq.,
Police Magistrate.

R. v. RICHARDSON.

Joseph Richardson, seaman of the British sailing ship *Manchester*, was charged with attempting to murder on the high seas, on the 3rd of December last, Arthur Herbert Simmonds, chief mate of the said vessel.

Sherwood Forrest, master of the *Manchester*, was sworn and stated that on the date in question about half-past-eleven in the forenoon he received a complaint from the steward concerning certain reprehensible conduct in the fore-castle. At the time he was in latitude 46°35' south and longitude 120°44' East. Witness told the mate to investigate the matter, and a short time later he heard Simmonds accusing the prisoner of being the offender. Prisoner at the time had just taken up his position at the wheel. A scuffle took place between them and witness who at the time was in the chart room rushed out on deck and saw prisoner attacking the mate savagely. The mate at the time had hold of the wheel so witness relieved him. Several blows were then exchanged between Simmonds and the prisoner and both fell to the deck. The mate got up and allowed Richardson to do the same, when the last-named suddenly drew his knife—an ordinary sheath knife,—and rushing at Simmonds stabbed him. The two closed again and prisoner made several attempts to stab the mate, in the neck. Witness let go the wheel and went to the assistance of the mate, succeeding in getting the knife out of prisoner's grasp. He shouted out for the fourth mate to bring the irons and prisoner was hand-cuffed, whereupon he foamed at the mouth, wrestled furiously, and tried to bite those near him. He also made use of abominable threats. They eventually overpowered him, tied his feet together and secured him to a stanchion in the lazarette. Later in the day witness released him, but he kept him in irons on and off for a fortnight. They searched him to see if he had any matches in his possession as the ship was laden with paraffin oil, and witness thought that he might possibly make an attempt to fire her. Subsequently he was found in possession of pipes, matches, and tobacco which he accounted for by saying that he took them out of his other clothes which had been passed aft to him. When they commenced to get into warm weather witness transferred him to one of the state rooms, keeping him there under lock and key. He allowed him to smoke in the stateroom but refused to let any of the crew communicate with him. He permitted him also to walk about the poop in the evening under observation.

Prisoner, asked if he wished to put any question to the captain, alleged that he was 21 days in irons instead of a fortnight, only being allowed unmanacled on two Sundays when he washed his clothes.

His Worship intimated that at a future time he would have an opportunity of making a statement.

Forrest added that if the mate had been laid up he would have been left without an officer as the second and third mates were ill, whilst the fourth mate was uncertificated.

The further hearing was adjourned until Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock.

16th February.

R. v. RICHARDSON.

In this case, Joseph Richardson, seaman, remanded from Tuesday charged with the attempted murder of Arthur Herbert Simmonds first mate of the *Manchester*, on the high seas on the 3rd of December last, was again brought up.

The first witness was Simmonds who practically corroborated the testimony given on Tuesday by the captain, Sherwood Forrest. He stated that when he discovered in the first place that the prisoner was the cause of the trouble in the fore-castle he ordered him forward. At the time prisoner was at the wheel and witness took hold of the wheel so that he might obey his order. Immediately he did so prisoner set upon him in a savage manner. The captain came to his assistance and witness overpowered the prisoner and threw him on the deck. He got up, however, and drawing his knife stabbed witness behind the left shoulder with a ferocious lunge. The blow cut through his coat and vest but caused no wound. Directly afterwards he stabbed him again in the left side the knife penetrating his clothes and causing a slight wound. Prisoner went for him again and was about to stab him in the neck when the captain who was in charge of the wheel intervened and took the knife away from him. The ship was running eight or nine knots at the time with squared yards, so that with no-one in charge the ship and crew were in danger. The captain shouted out for the fourth mate and the sail-maker and after some difficulty they put him in irons. Prisoner used abominable threats both to witness and the captain, and they had to tie his feet and lash him to a stanchion in the lazarette to restrain his violence. They took all matches away from him on account of having a kerosene oil cargo, but getting wind that there was some underhand work going on amongst the crew, to supply prisoner with matches and tobacco, he subsequently again searched him and found him to be in possession of matches which he took away. After about a fortnight they transferred him from the lazarette to a cabin where he remained under lock and key until their arrival in Shanghai. On one occasion he had to chide the prisoner for broaching cargo, but otherwise there could be no animus between them.

Prisoner by cross examination sought to show that he would never have been removed from the lazarette but that the mate wanted to broach the cargo. His Worship on appeal by the witness said that this question did not enter into the case. It was not true, the witness continued, that he blasphemed the men every day. He had said that rather than be a common sailor he would jump overboard; and so he would. When the captain took the knife away from the prisoner he struck him on the forehead with the butt end of it.

Charles Rippon, fourth mate of the *Manchester*, Geo. Knight, steward, and Charles Neilson, sailmaker, were called and spoke to assisting to secure the prisoner. They were not present when the disturbance commenced. The last-named said the captain took out his handkerchief

and threatened to gag the prisoner if he did not desist from using abusive language.

The prisoner in defence said that when questioned by the mate as to the fore-castle incident he admitted being the offender whereupon the mate said: "Only for your having hold of the wheel, I would wipe the deck with you." He replied: "I don't think you will," when the mate attacked him, and seizing hold of the collar of his coat ordered him away from the wheel. They then commenced to fight and the mate getting him down on the deck, knelt on him and pummelled him with both fists. When he got up he saw in addition to the skipper and the mate, the steward and the three other officers on the poop. He had the knife in his hand. Thinking he was going to be "double-banked" he closed with the mate with his arm but did not strike with the knife. He was overpowered and the captain taking the knife away from him struck him heavily over the left temple with it causing his head to bleed pretty freely. While he was down, the master and mate hammered him continually. He alleged that during the time he was in the lazarette, the irons were only removed on two occasions and then only for brief periods.

Wm. Burley, seaman, was called on behalf of the prisoner. He said he was called to take the wheel after the captain had left it. When he got on the poop he saw the mate and the master holding the prisoner down on the deck, but did not see them strike him.

Prisoner after this witness had left the box said he did not wish to call any more evidence. His Worship then committed him for trial.

17th February.

R. v. CHRISTIE.

John Christie, municipal cattle inspector, appeared to answer a charge of assaulting Dong Ah-song by kicking and striking him with his fists at, or near, the Municipal bullock sheds on the 14th instant. Defendant pleaded not guilty.

Complainant stated that he was in the employ of Mr. Hall, cattle dealer and butcher of Shanghai, as a cattle drover. On the 14th inst. he was ordered to take a number of beasts from French-town to the Municipal cattle sheds. There were altogether twenty bullocks in the charge of himself and five other coolies. They arrived at the sheds about four o'clock but Mr. Christie was not there. When he arrived he questioned complainant as to the ownership of the cattle, and on being informed that they were Mr. Hall's the defendant struck and kicked him. He also struck him in the neck. Complainant exhibited bruises and a slight abrasion as proof of the violence he had been subjected to. The coolies afterwards went to the Hong-kew police station, whither they were directed by a native employee at the sheds. On arriving there the inspector in charge asked witness to whom the beasts belonged, threatening that if he did not speak the truth he would lock him up. He told him they belonged to Mr. Hall and afterwards the bullocks were branded at the sheds. He now told His Worship that in consequence of the assault he was at present incapacitated, and unable to follow his ordinary employment.

Yao Fung-chau, a coolie, spoke to accompanying the last witness to the sheds with the cattle. He corroborated his evidence as to what took place at the shed with regard to the ownership of the cattle. He himself was forced to go upstairs, where he was kept for some time. When he came down again he was told to go to the police station and on refusing to go was kicked by the defendant. In reply to the defendant the witness said defendant got hold of his queue when he assaulted him.

Chun Mow-sung, one of the party of coolies in charge of the cattle, gave similar

testimony, adding that he himself was struck across the face with a broomstick, and otherwise assaulted.

The first witness recalled, in answer to a question from Mr. Hall said he took a memorandum to the shed stating to whom the cattle belonged.

Mr. Hall went into the box and spoke to sending the cattle to the sheds. They were his own *bona fide* property. The cattle had to be sent to the sheds to comply with the Municipal Regulations. They were Tanyang cattle and came *via* the Soochow Creek—the usual channel.

The defendant, in denying the charge, said he never assaulted them at all. It was a false charge made up against him. He admitted putting two of the coolies in a top office but he did not push them upstairs or use any violence. The reason he put them up there was to isolate them with the view of obtaining the truth as to where the cattle came from. Since the first of the year he had had a great deal of trouble with cattle sent there from Pahsienjao, a prohibited place under the Municipal regulations. The head man, a Chinaman, at the shed, knowing the cattle in question came from Pahsienjao, detained them until he came. When he arrived the coolies admitted that the animals had come from Pahsienjao, having been taken from there to Mr. Hall's place, branded with his mark, and sent down to the sheds. Mr. Hall had been evading the Municipal regulations and on the previous day defendant had rejected these very cattle. Mr. Hall then sent them down a second time—this being the 14th inst., when he again refused to admit them. He wished to call the headman who was present the whole of the time and he would state that he never committed an assault.

Wong Kwei-ching, the head man referred to, accordingly was sworn. He denied that Mr. Christie assaulted the men. Five of the coolies said the cattle were from Pahsienjao but Mr. Hall's servant did not support the statement, refusing to state where they came from. Witness alleged that the cattle belonged to a Chinaman, that they hailed from a prohibited area, and were sent down in the name of Mr. Hall. Examined by the defendant, the witness had heard that Mr. Hall was anxious to see defendant dismissed.

The Defendant: I ask that question, your Worship, to show that Mr. Hall is actuated by personal animosity and that it is a trumped-up charge.

Mr. Hall proceeded to question the witness as to the marking of the cattle, stating that he wished to drive at something else.

His Worship however checked him by reminding him that that was not the place for exposing his personal grievances. He said he did not think the charge of assault was proved and he should dismiss the case.

18th February.

R. v. PEARCE.

Frederick Pearce, a young man of respectable appearance, was charged with conspiring with two others, not in custody, to obtain board and lodging from Chotura Khotiwa with intent to defraud. Prisoner in pleading not guilty stated that at the time he ordered the refreshments he had no money on him, but one of his companions guaranteed to go security for him.

Prosecutor, who lives at 18, Nanzing Road, stated that the prisoner and two others came to his place and ordered food. They were supplied and afterwards two of them absconded, leaving the prisoner who stated that he had no money. The amount due to him was \$5.30.

Inspector Ramsay said that during the last month they had received several complaints from proprietors of semi-foreign hotels of having been defrauded in this way.

His Worship—If they will give credit to strangers they must run some risks.

Prisoner, who promised to pay to-day, was discharged, His Worship reminding him that unless he kept his word he would be again brought up.

UNITED STATES CONSULAR COURT.

Shanghai, 17th February.

Before E. T. WILLIAMS, Esq.,
Vice-Consul-General.

U.S. PEOPLE v. ERNHOLD.

Charles Ernhold, seaman, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Broadway on the previous afternoon.

The charge was proved by P.C. Thompson and native P.C. 503.

Prisoner was ordered to pay a fine of \$5.

18th February.

Before JOHN GOODNOW, Esq., Consul-General.

U.S. PEOPLE v. ERNHOLD.

Charles Ernhold was charged with being drunk and disorderly in the Sailors' Home and with assaulting J. Lawrence. He was further charged with assaulting the police.

J. Lawrence, "runner" at the Sailors' Home, said that on the previous night prisoner was drunk and creating a disturbance in the Home. When witness interfered prisoner struck and bit him. Prisoner had a knife in his hand, with which he struck at a man with whom he was fighting. Did not attempt to strike witness with the knife. Witness sent for the police and had prisoner arrested.

Sikh P.C. 109 said he was called to the Sailors' Home, where he saw prisoner, who was drunk, fighting with other men. Prisoner assaulted witness by pulling his beard.

Native P.Cs. 492 and 526 gave corroborative evidence.

Prisoner pleaded guilty and said he obtained drink from the boatswain of his ship, a man named O'Brien, in the Home. He had nothing to drink outside. He had a row with the boatswain about something which had occurred on board the ship and the boatswain struck him first. That was the cause of the trouble. He was fighting with another man when he was arrested, not with the boatswain.

His Honour adjourned the case until 2 o'clock in the afternoon, for the attendance of O'Brien and the man with whom prisoner was fighting.

Upon resuming,

George Fell, fireman, the man with whom prisoner was fighting, was called and sworn. The witness was so intoxicated that he could hardly give evidence. He said that he was in the Sailors' Home on the previous night and saw the prisoner there. Prisoner was drunk and rushed at witness with an open clasp knife, so witness struck him and knocked him down. Had said nothing to prisoner, and knew of no reason for his conduct. Witness had been drinking himself, but not in the Home.

Prisoner had no questions to ask the witness.

The man O'Brien, who was called as a witness, failed to put in an appearance, and His Honour adjourned the case until the following morning in order that a summons might be issued to compel his attendance.

19th February.

Charles Ernhold was charged on remand with being drunk and disorderly in the Sailors' Home and with assaulting J. Lawrence. He was further charged with assaulting the police.

Patrick O'Brien, sworn, said that the fight which occurred was a drunken brawl. Witness bought a quart bottle of gin at a shop in Broadway, for which he paid 50 cents, and took it into the Home. Prisoner drank about half a pint of it. Witness saw the fight. Could not say who struck the first blow, but thought it was the prisoner. Saw prisoner strike at the complainant, but not with a knife. If he had tried to use a knife, witness could have seen it. Men were not allowed to take drink into the Home, in fact, there was a very strict rule against it. It was taken in without the knowledge of the Superintendent. George Fell, recalled, said the prisoner came at him while he was lying on his bed. Had never had any trouble with prisoner before.

His Honour sentenced prisoner to two days' imprisonment from the time of his arrest, and to pay the costs of the case.

IN CASE OF FIRE.

Your house takes fire. What burn first? The lightest and most inflammable stuff, of course—furniture, doors, shelves, floors, panelling, and other woodwork. If it is a stone or brick house the wall will probably remain standing—a melancholy sight.

Were not this a principle of universal application Mr. Meddings would never have compared himself to a skeleton, as he does in the letter to which your attention is now invited.

"In the autumn of 1891," he says, "I fell into a low, weak state of health. My ordinary energy appeared to have gone out of me. I always felt tired and languid, and couldn't account for it. Nothing seemed to rest me. I was as tired in the morning as when I went to bed. I had a bad taste in the mouth, my appetite was poor, and after meals I had a pain at my chest and left side."

"I was in this condition until the 14th of March 1892, and then I had to give up work. The reason was, I was too weak to work. In fact, I was so weak that it was about as much as I could do to walk across the floor. Besides this I had a dry, hacking cough; and at night I sweat so the bedclothes were wet. Sometimes during the day cold, clammy sweats would break out all over me."

"I lost flesh rapidly, until I was like a skeleton. There was no feeling of warmth in me; it was as though my blood had gone cool and thin. I was too feeble and helpless to wash or dress myself and people said I was wasting away, as though they expected to see the end of it presently."

"I consulted two doctors and they gave me medicine, but it did me no good. One day my aunt, Mrs. Benton, of Francis Street, Walsall, called, and in the course of talk she said that the medicine that did her good when she was ill was Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. Although it didn't look reasonable to believe that it could cure a case as bad as mine, nevertheless my wife got me a bottle from Mr. Grove, the chemist in Park Street, and I commenced taking it. In a few days I found myself much better; my appetite was better, and I had gained a little strength."

"To make the story short, I kept on taking the Syrup and continued to get better. As soon as I could digest my food the night sweats and the cough abated, and in a few weeks I was able to go back to my work. That is two years ago, and since then I have been in good health, for which I have to thank Mother Seigel's Syrup. (Signed) Arthur Thomas Meddings, 115, Farringdon Street, Walsall, March 6th, 1894."

In a fire, as we said, it is the light, inflammable stuff that burns first. That's why Mr. Meddings got to be so ghastly thin. The flesh or fat is the fuel of the body. In health it keeps up the warmth and furnishes the power. And to keep up the fuel we must eat.

Now, disease is a conflagration: it tries to burn the house up, and often does it. The fat goes first, the muscles, etc., afterwards. That's the way of it. About that time the tenant moves out.

Our friend was well on towards that point. But it wasn't lung disease that ailed him, albeit he had the cough and the sweats. They go also with indigestion and dyspepsia

—his real and only malady. He got feeble and thin because his disease wouldn't allow the stomach to digest food. Hence he consumed all the flesh he had stored up, and then (luckily for him) he began to take Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, which set his stomach and liver right, and gave his vitals a chance to feed him.

All the same it is dangerous to let a fire get headway. When it is in your body quench the first spark with Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup.

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Miscellaneous Intelligence.

BIRTHS.

At 28, North Szechuen Road, Shanghai, on the 16th of February, the wife of Pastor KRANZ, of a son.

At the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, Shanghai, on the 15th February, the wife of E. KARBE, of a son.

DEATH.

At Hwanghien, province of Shantung, on the 1st of February, 1898, ASHLEY RODGERS, son of Rev. C. W. and Anna S. PRUITT, aged 5½ years.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *China*, for London—Messrs. W. R. Eastlack, James and John Dow. For St. Louis—Rev. Young J. Allen, D.D. For New York—Mr. R. Ramsay. For San Francisco—Rev. W. F. Walker, Messrs. W. F. Brand, S. E. Bowen, A. G. Deit, and J. Reid. For Honolulu—Mr. Lam Ching-choon. For Nagasaki—Mr. and Mrs. Muller Beek and children, Miss Fiedler, Mrs. Beurnance, Mrs. E. R. Paulsen, Bishop H. Evington, and Rev. S. A. Moffat. For Kobe—Messrs. M. S. Ray, and L. Fabricius. For Yokohama—Miss Oakley, Messrs. J. H. McMichael, G. Hay, and S. M. King.

Per str. *Empress of India*, for London—Mr. E. Hiltmann. For New York—Mr. L. Spitzel. For Yokohama—Messrs. Liao, and Pow Chong-chew. For Kobe—Messrs. F. L. Marshall, and J. Dempster. For Nagasaki—Mr. C. Kragh.

Per str. *Nagato Maru*, for Nagasaki—Mrs. M. Hariton, Messrs. S. Katsura, and H. Gibbs. For Kobe—Messrs. T. Utsunomiya, Chang, Yan, Woo, Li, Ju, Zee Jun-poo.

Per str. *Poyang*, for Hankow—Messrs. Lindenberg, Obst, and Kunkel. For Ichang—Mr. J. W. Nicholson. For Tanchow—Rev. J. Ware.

Per str. *Hsinfang*, for Ningpo—Messrs. Arnuthnot, Pullan, and Yamaguchi.

Per str. *Ngaukin*, for Chinkiang—Mr. W. Martin.

Per str. *Tamsui* for Chefoo—Dr. Molyneux.

Per str. *Pekin*, for Ning-o—Mr. A. R. Burtenshaw.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Japan*, from London—Mr. and Mrs. Pattison and child, Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield, Mrs. Wilson, Messrs. R. Carr, A. C. Moule, and Nicholson. From Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. V. Robinson, Messrs. Mann, and J. Reid.

Per str. *Océanien*, from Marseilles, etc.—Messrs. Duclos, Girault, L. Adams, J. Adams, Gugiantson, Currill, Baretta, Boni, Louis, Sang Fo Sang, San Foh King, Ezra, Lenners, and Ah San.

Per str. *Sachsen*, from Bremen—Miss A. Ebell, and Mr. Thorsoe. From Southampton—Mr. and Mrs. Hunnux and children, Mrs. Taylor and children, Misses Hurn, Bradfield, Williamson, and Culverwell, Messrs. Bowman, Sanderson, Liug Y-you, and Li. From Genoa—Mr. and Mrs. Plambeck and child, Mr. and Mrs. Adler, Mr. and Mrs. Richter, Mr. and Mrs. Lamond, Mr. and Mrs. Buchheister and children, Consul and Mrs. Muller Beck and children, Misses Lloyd, and Bergmann, Messrs. Schintani, Steger, Nicolaissen, H. Biehl, Faust, Rohde, Wedmeyer, Ru-kei, Fahrmeister, Krigh, and Enaige. From Naples—Bishop Evington, and Rev. S. A. Mottes. From Hongkong—Miss dos Santos, and Miss F. M. da Silva, Messrs. Lindenberg, Obst, and Stoepel.

Per str. *Nagato Maru*, from Japan, etc.—Messrs. K. Takahashi, Geo. Clark, Tomasoff, B. Owen, R. Ichinomeya Maurice Aliik, S. Sugimoto, A. Tanaka, and James Joneon.

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Per str. *Empress of Japan*, for Hongkong—Miss Hodges, Messrs. E. F. Alford, C. S. Taylor, R. You'g, and W. J. Blackhall.

Per str. *Wingsang*, from Hongkong—Messrs. Deacon, Liu, Logan, and Olchmor.

Per str. *China*, from Hongkong—Mr. E. Aepli.

Per str. *Haeslin*, from Foochow—R. v. T. Richards, and Mr. Ramsay.

Per str. *Kiangkwan*, from Hankow—Messrs. Vopel, and Roci.

Per str. *Paohua*, from Hankow—Mr. Greaves.

Per str. *Shengking*, from Chefoo—Mr. W. H. Sturtevant, and Rev. Father Masseo.

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Per str. *Tenringawa Maru*, from Hankow—Messrs. Y. Imanishi, and Matsuhara.

Per str. *Haean*, from Chefoo—Mrs. L. Lindberg.

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Per str. *Changon*, from Hankow—Mr. Howell.

Per str. *Maria Valerie*, from Trieste—Messrs. Hostwigg, Miller, and Tilleek.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Mr. Keda.

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Shanghai, 17th June, 1896,

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer.		WIND.	Force.	Thermometer at 9 A.M.		Thermometer in shade.		Initials.
	9 A.M.	Atmos. Therm.			Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Max.	Min.	
Feb 15	29.57	51.5	S.E.	1	51.0	51.0	54.0	48.0	F.
16	29.78	51.5	N.W.	3	51.0	50.5	58.0	49.0	F.
17	29.94	49.5	"	3	49.0	48.5	55.0	47.0	O.M.
18	29.68	51.5	N.	4	50.0	49.5	55.0	48.0	D.
19	29.88	47.0	N.E.	4	46.5	45.0	53.0	45.0	O.
20	29.99	45.5	"	4	45.0	44.5	47.5	43.5	D.
21	29.91	48.0	"	4	47.5	46.5	51.0	45.0	O.

EXPLANATION.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12. estimated.

Advertisements.

THE
CHINA COASTER'S TIDAL MANUAL
FOR 1898,
BEING A HANDYBOOK OF TIDES
AND
NAUTICAL MISCELLANY
FOR THE PRINCIPAL PORTS ON THE CHINA
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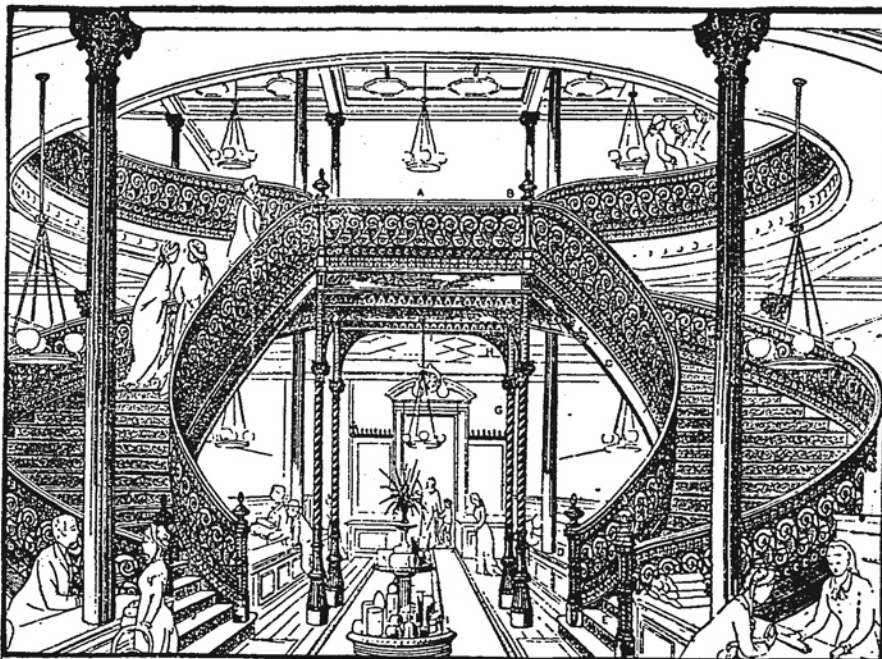
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(1) alt —o-a-m— 31de-98 222

7th Feb., 1898.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report of 19th February.)

PIECE GOODS.—The opening of the Northern season is fast approaching and the dealers are busy arranging for the shipment of their purchases. The weather has kept so mild it is at present decided to despatch the first flight of steamers, carrying Piece Goods, on the morning of the 27th inst., although several have already left in ballast to load produce at TAKU for the south. There is naturally some anxiety amongst the natives as to the reception their shipments will receive, but the general impression seems to be that it will be favourable, until that is assured, however, they are not disposed to lay in much more stock, especially at the higher prices now asked on account of the further decline in Exchange. Supplies at the commencement promise to be ample, it being estimated that there is fully the usual quantity already in the Steamer godowns. This means, too, the locking up of a very considerable sum of money which must curtail the purchasing power until returns are received. Prices show some improvement, and although the market is quiet at the moment it is undoubtedly strong. Money is much cheaper, but at the same time credit seems to be somewhat restricted, doubtless attributable to some extent to the uncertainty there is with regard to the political situation.

There is nothing particularly striking in this week's transactions, except perhaps their meagreness, the indent trade being almost at a standstill owing to the poor rates of Exchange obtainable forward. At Auction, too, the lull is apparent, though no special weakness is shown.

Opinions seem to differ with regard to the MANCHESTER market, which is generally considered to be strong, but it does not stand the test of actual firm offers very well, its strength being quite superficial. Cotton remains steady at $3\frac{1}{4}$ d. The markets in the STATES are reported to be higher and scarcely any fresh business has been done for this part of the world.

Yarns have further improved, local spinnings coming in for a fair share of attention at better prices. Cotton remains firm in the neighbourhood of £16.00 per picul for best machine ginned, but there are few, if any, buyers at that price.

Grey Shirtings.—8.4-lbs.—Sales this week do not amount to more than 30,000 pieces, the following being the prices quoted:—Red 2 Flag and Man and Flag £1.95, Stork (Dutch) £2.07½, less 1 per cent., Red Wheatear £2.20, Ship £2.25, Green 2 Boy, Fancy Wheelbarrow and Blue Boy £2.30, Dog and Two Boys £2.35 and Indian Chief £2.62½. The market is up about two and a half candareens and is steady, Auction prices showing but little change.

Light Weights.—Privately a small business is passing in 7-lbs. makes, both from stock and to arrive, sales being reported as follows, but the quantities are very moderate:—Lie Eagle £1.60, Blue and Red Stork £1.60 net, and Red Pheasant £1.87½. At Auction prices went a shade lower.

Heavy Weights.—There is a good demand, but available supplies are dwindling down, the sales mentioned not amounting to more than 10,000 pieces, as under:—Water Goat 1009 £2.52½, Auctioneer 00 £2.65 net, Red Butterfly £2.70, Blue Fish £2.98½, Man and Eagle £3.00, Eagle A & W £3.15/12½, and 10½-lbs. Six Boy £3.43½, less 1%. Prices ruled very firm at Auction.

12-lbs., 36-inch.—There are only two sales reported, namely, 5,000 pieces Two Stork B at £3.20 and a small lot of Soldier and 9 Feather at £3.50. At Auction the tendency is up.

White Shirts.—Transactions have continued chiefly on the same lines as reported last week, namely in small parcels of the better makes. Only two sales are mentioned of 64-reeds, namely, *Red Goat* at £2.10 and *Blue Goat* at £2.27½/30, and prices at Auction were fairly steady. In 72-reeds and finer makes sales of nearly 10,000 pieces are reported and include the following chops:—*Three Ring* £3.06 less 1%, *Six Gold Cock* £3.05/10, *Blue Dragon* and *Tiger* £3.50, *Blue Dragon No. 1* £3.85, *Woman* and *Tiger* £4.35, and several small lots at from three to four taels. The sale mentioned last week of *Gold Cock* at £2.82½ should have been "*Spade and four Cocks*." Most of the chops at Auction show an improvement in prices.

White Irishes.—The sale is announced of 2,000 pieces *Nine Bats* at £3.54½/57½ and is all we hear of.

T-Cloths.—Scarcely anything doing. Small sales of *One Ring* at £1.45, *Blue 2 Fishes* at £1.55 and *Eagle XX* at £1.85 to arrive, being the only movement reported. The few offered at Auction show a slight improvement.

Jeans.—Nothing reported privately but the small lots at Auction went up about three candareens.

Drills.—*English.*—Sales are reported of 3,040 pieces, namely *Municipal Flag* £3.22½ and *Mohkey and Fish* £3.55. The demand is not very strong and no sales are mentioned of *American* makes.

Sheetings.—In *English* small sales are published of *Three Tiger Head* at £2.90 and *Municipal Flag* at £2.95; the market being steady but the demand is limited.

In *Indian* a small sale of *Blue Lion* at £2.92½ has been made.

In *American* sales of 15,000 pieces from first hands are published, namely *Two Rabbit (Pacolet)* at £3.02, *Massachusetts Flying Horse* at £3.30 and *Indian Head* at £3.40, while a resale of 4,000 pieces *Dog A* is also mentioned at £3.12½.

Fancy Goods.—Transactions continue in miscellaneous *Prints* at ruinous prices for unapproved designs, but the only sale of which particulars are given is 1,800 pieces *Imitation Crêpe Twills* at £1.72½. Dyed goods meet with little attention and very inadequate prices are offered for *Cotton Lastings* and *Italians*, but they are steadily improving at Auction. A sale is reported of 5,000 pieces *Victoria Laxus* at £0.56 for *Mauve Lion* chop. A few cases of *Turkey Reds* have been indented for.

Woollens.—There is nothing of interest to note with regard to these goods. Private business seems to be quite out of the question and Auction prices show no improvement to make amends for the lower exchange. *CAMLETS* continue to sell irregularly, but the best seem to be in most favour. *LONG ELS* are weaker, a mace to a mace and-a-half. *LASTINGS* show steady to firm prices, but *SPANISH STAINES* are exhibiting weakness.

Cotton Yarn.—*Indian.*—The market is steady, prices showing an advance of half a tael, which is all Importers have been able to extract to compensate them for the drop in the Rupee rate of Exchange. The *TRIESTIN* men have been buying the No. 10s. but the 16s. and 20s. are wanted for the River Ports. Sales amount to 2,948 bales, as follows:—

No. 10s., 670 bales—*Morarju Goculdas* £65.53, *E. Pabaney Mill* £68.00/69.50, *Svadeshi Mill* £68.50/69.25 and *Currimbhoy Ring* £70.75.

No. 16s., 148 bales—*Currimbhoy Mule* £75.50/76.00 and *Framjee Petit, Fish* £77.50.

No. 20s., 2,230 bales—*Western India, Dragon and Flag* £75.50, *Malakshami, 5 Old Man (Red)* £76.25, do. *Blue*, and *Anglo-Indian Mule* £76.50, *Imperial, Empress Spinning, Dhun Mill, Vithaladas Copaldos, Woman* and *Jubilee Mule* £76.50/77.00 *Hope Mill* £76.75, *Indian Manufacturing* £77.00, *Star of India, Mule* £77.25, do. *Ring* £77.50, *Britannia, Ring* £77.50/78.00, *James Greaves* £77.75/78.25, *Motilal Mill* £78.00, *Tea Carrier* £78.25/78.50, *Anglo-Indian Riny* £78.50/78.75, *Jubilee Ring* £78.75 and *Ripon Mule* £80.00.

Japanese.—Sales of 700 bales are reported, chiefly 16s. at an advance of half a tael, the following being the prices paid:—

No. 16s., 600 bales.—*Fan and Stork* £76.75, *Peacock* £76.75/77.25, *Blue Fish* and *Gold Bell* £77.25, and *Gold Elephant* £77.25/77.50.

No. 20s., 100 bales.—*Stork* £79.00 and *Horse* £80.00. The market is said to be one yen lower in JAPAN but this does not make up for the difference in Exchange.

Metals.—From Messrs. Alex. Belfield & Co.'s Report of 21st February:—In Metals there has been a fair demand, and a few contracts have, we hear, been closed, but at rates which have not, up to the present, been made public. Home rates are, if anything, easier, but the unstable state of exchange keeps several dealers from closing. The following contracts have been closed:—200 tons *Sohiers, N.R.* 126/-, c.i.f.; 500 cases *Bamboo Steel*, *Double Horse* at £6.00, spot; 50 tons *Cart Tyres* 106/-, c.i.f.; 50 cases *Galvanized Sheet*, 28 gauge at £6.60, spot; 45 cases *Tin Basins* at private term; 100 tons *Small Round Iron* 102/6, c.i.f.; 100 tons *Old Telegraph Wire* 90/-, c.i.f.; 100 tons *Boiler Tubes* 90 to 100/-, c.i.f.; 100 tons *Bale Hoops* 112/-, c.i.f.

In *SUNDRIES* but little has been done, though inquiry for the opening of the Northern ports has been rather free. A few contracts, as under, have been closed, however:—2,000 dozen *Handkerchiefs*, 17×17 at £0.42; 2,000 cases *Window Glass* at £3.20; 700 cases each 20 bars=50lbs. *Soap* at £1.79; 10 cases each 50 dozen *Toilet Soap* at £1.67½.

Opium.—Closing quotations:—*Malwa (new)* £610; (old) £640/700; *Patna (new)* £535; *Benares* £542; (new) £530.

EXPORTS

Silks.—From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular of 21st instant:—

London messages to 18th quote a firm market, *Blue Elephant* 11/0, and the *Lyons* quotation for *Gold Kilin* Fcs. 28.25.

RAW SILK.—Settlements are only moderate again this week, arrivals are quite insignificant and advices from the interior are agreed that stocks there are practically exhausted, *Tsatlees* and *Taysaams* account for 200 bales of the week's business. Of *Yellow Silk*, only 50 piculs have been sold, and of *Wild Silk* 150 piculs have found buyers.

ARRIVALS, as per Customs Returns, 12th to 18th February: 53 bales *White*, 18 piculs *Yellow*, and 76 piculs *Wild Silk*.

RE-REELS AND FILATURES.—A settlement of *Steam Filatures* for the States is reported, and the price quoted is Tls. 780 for 1st choice 13/15, and Tls. 765 for 2nd Choice. There have also been two or three transactions in *Hand Filatures* at quotations.

The Export of *Steam Filatures* to date is: 4,149 bales for *America*, 3,135 bales for the *Continent*, 43 bales for *Japan*, and 22 bales for *England*.

WASTE SILK.—We quote *Filature Knubs* Tls. 93½ and *White Coarse Gum* 1 and 2 Tls. 64.

PONGEES.—About 1,500 piculs *Shantungs* have been bought at Tls. 2.85 @ 4.25 for 19 in. × 19 yards × 22/26 oz.

Prices calculated by Marten's Tables at 11 per cent. Exchange 2/6½ and Fcs. 3.18½. Freight Tls. 7.45 per bale.

	Tls. per picul	Stg. per lb.	Fcs. per kilo.		Tls. per picul	Stg. per lb.	Fcs. per kilo.
TSATLEES. — <i>Buffalo 4</i>	510	11/1	30.80	YELLOW SILK. — <i>Meeyang</i>	330	7/4	20.25
<i>Bird Yuen Ling</i>	495	10/9½	29.90	<i>Mienchew</i>	312½	6/11½	19.20
<i>Blue Phoenix</i>	492½	10/9	29.75	STEAM FILATURE. — <i>First Choice</i> 13/15	780	16/9	46.30
<i>Blue Double Elephant</i>	485	10/7	29.30	<i>Second</i> " 13/15	765	16/5½	44.50
TAYSAAM. — <i>Gr. Kahing MM</i>	432½	9/6	26.35	HAND FILATURE. — <i>Pegasus</i> 1-2 & 3	595	12/11	35.75
SEKINS. — <i>Lie Skeins</i>	335	7/5	20.55	WILD SILK. — <i>Tussah Raw, Market</i> 1	205	4/8½	12.90

* England. * France, &c. Total Europe. America. India & Egypt. Japan, Coast & Straits Grand Total.

* Many shipments are now sent optional, Marseilles or London.
Also 1,547 piculs Old Silk Wadding to London.
" 2,100 " " " " " Continent.

3,647

We have no change to report in homeward rates of freight; that to London having remained at 22/6, contrary to expectation of a further fall. Practically no Conference now exists, the principal parties to it having withdrawn. Cargo in this direction is anything but plentiful and steamers seem more attracted by the higher rates ruling in the South and an abundance of freight there. For New York the rate remains steady at 27/6, and there is, for this time of year, an exceptionally strong demand for tonnage. Coastwise, the Northern Ports are reported free from ice, and it is expected that steamer communication with them will be resumed about the end of this month.

<i>Nestor</i>	to sail about 25th instant.
<i>Porneo</i>	" " 26th "

For New York via Suez.—We have been without tonnage since the 22nd ultimo, just a month; and during that time a considerable quantity of cargo has accumulated, some 2,000 tons space being eagerly applied for, a very good contribution for this season. The *Lyderhorn*, now here, will load the above cargo, and expects to leave about 25th instant; the *Ghazee* will follow her, due here about the end of current month. Rate 27/6.

For New York via Cape.—There is no vessel on the berth at present.

For New York via Pacific Lines.—The following sailings are advertised:—

<i>Belgie</i>	26th instant.
<i>Victoria</i>	26th "
<i>Peru</i>	7th proximo.

DÉPARTURES.

For London via Suez.—	<i>Hector</i> s.s.	31st ultimo.
	<i>Ceylon</i> s.s.	31st "
	<i>Pingsuey</i> s.s.	8th instant.
	<i>Polyphemus</i> s.s.	9th "
	<i>Shanghai</i> s.s.	13th "
	<i>Diomed</i> s.s.	17th "

For New York via Suez.—Nil.

For Singapore.—*McLaurin* s.v. (in ballast) 16th „

For Manila.—	<i>Brynhilda</i> s.v.	"	17th	"
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For Kohalai.— *Luzon* s.v.] „ 17th „

RATES OF FREIGHT.

LONDON.....	by Conference Lines, General Cargo	22/6	W. Silk	25/0	Tea	22/6
NORTHERN CONT. PORTS	" " " "	22/6	"	25/0	"	22/6
NEW YORK via LONDON.....	" " " "	30/0	"	32/6	"	30/0
BALTIMORE via LONDON.....	" " " "	35/0	"	37/6	"	35/0
KONIGSBERG via LONDON.....	" " " "	30/0	"	32/6	"	30/0
MANCHESTER.....	" " " "	35/0	"	37/6	"	35/0
LIVERPOOL.....	" " " "	30/0	"	32/6	"	30/0
HAMBURG.....	" " " "	22/6	"	25/0	"	22/6

Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference Circular.

HAYRE	by Conference Lines, Tallow 32/6 nett, General Cargo 32/6 nett, W. Silk 35/0 nett, Tea 32/6 nett.
GENOA	" " " " 32/6 " " " 32/6 " " 35/0 " " 32/6 "
MARSEILLES	" " " " 32/6 " " " 32/6 " " 35/0 " " 32/6 "
42/6 per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports.	
NEW YORK, by Sail.....	20/0 nominal.
Do. via Pacific	1½ gold cts. per lb. Tea,—3 cts. per lb. Silk,—\$9.00 per ton Strawbraird.
Do. via Suez	27/6 per ton General Cargo. 27/6 Tea.
BOSTON	35/0 " "
PHILADELPHIA	35/0 " "

COAST RATES.

MOJI	TO SHANGHAI \$1.40 per ton Coal.
NAGASAKI	" " \$1.35 " "
NEWCHWANG	" KOBE.....season closed.
"	" SOUTHERN PORTS ... "
WUHU	" CANTON

Coals.—From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report of 21st inst.

COAL.—JAPAN.—The undernoted list of arrivals will speak for itself as to the large quantity of Coals imported during the last three weeks, and from Japanese advices we understand that there is still plenty of coal for sale, yet in face of these facts prices have been well maintained for good coal, though for inferior kinds there is very little demand.

CARDIFF.—For local consumption there is not much doing beyond sales of small quantities among natives. A large business has been done in cargoes "to arrive," for Government requirements, at prices averaging Tls. 17 per ton. The only arrival has been the *Amara* on the 7th instant with 4,385 tons, sold to arrive.

SYDNEY WOLLONGONG.—A fair demand still exists for this description, but we do not know whether a cargo could be obtained at recent prices. The *Airlie* arrived on the 11th inst. with 1,380 tons, sold to arrive at Tls. 13.00.

Quotations.—The undernoted figures are based on the most recent settlements for cargoes to arrive and do not represent the present market rates for coals in stock, which fluctuate with the supply and demand:—

Cardiff, ex godown	Tls. 17.00 per ton.
American Anthracite, ex godown	" 15.00 " nominal.
Sydney Wollongong, steamer cargo ex godown	" 13.00 " nominal.
Otsuji, ex godown	Tls. 7.25 @ 8.00 per ton.
Karatz, ex godown	
Ohnoura, ex godown	
Komatsu "	
Hokoku "	
Ohnoura 3 feet.....	All contracted for.
" 5 "	
Japan, Takasima Lump, ex godown	
" Small "	
Namazuta Lump, "	
" Dust "	
Miiké Lump, "	
" Small, ex godown	

Arrivals during the fortnight have been:—

Jan. 27, <i>Fujisan Maru</i> , str.	1,860 tons	Ichimura Large Coal, to consumers.
" 27, <i>Omega</i>	700 "	Ohnoura Coal, to consumers.
" 28, <i>Hangchow</i> str.	1,850 "	Yubari Dust Coal, to consumers.
" 30, <i>Rheingold</i> , str.	990 "	Nagasaki Coal, to native dealers.
" 30, <i>Ariel</i> , str.	1,938 "	Nagasaki Coal, to native dealers.
" 31, <i>Pechili</i> str.	1,117 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.
" 31, <i>Pronto</i> , str.	1,789 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
Feb. 1, <i>Tamsui</i> str.	665 "	Namazuta Lump Coal, to consumers.
" 1, <i>Hoihow</i> str.	945 "	Namazuta Dust Coal, to consumers.
" 2, <i>Atagosan Maru</i> , str. ...	1,600 "	Moji Lump Coal, to consumers.
" 2, <i>Kaiyong</i> str.	2,056 "	Miiké Coal, to consumers.
" 2, <i>Feiching</i> , str.	1,224 "	Moji Lump Coal, to consumers.
" 3, <i>Toonan</i> str.	1,320 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 3, <i>Taiwan</i> str.	1,350 "	Otsuji Lump Coal, to consumers.
" 4, <i>Asosan Maru</i> str.	2,020 "	Moji Mixed Coal, to consumers.
" 5, <i>Sadokuni Maru</i> , str. ...	1,856 "	Moji Lump Coal, to consumers.
" 5, <i>Woosung</i> , str.	1,318 "	Moji Lump Coal, to consumers.
" 7, <i>Fujisan Maru</i> str.	2,000 "	Tagawa Lump Coal, to consumers.
" 7, <i>Amara</i> str.	1,959 "	Miiké Coal, to consumers.
" 7, <i>Foochow</i> str.	4,385 "	Cardiff Coal, sold to arrive.
" 8, <i>Velocity</i>	2,000 "	Kebao Coal, to consumers.
" 9, <i>Pechili</i> str.	775 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 11, <i>Yikang</i> str.	1,102 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.
" 11, <i>Airlie</i> str.	1,322 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.
" 12, <i>Atagosan Maru</i> str.	1,380 "	Wollongong Coal, sold to arrive.
" 12, <i>Lienushing</i> str.	2,030 "	Miiké Coal, to consumers.
" 13, <i>Rheingold</i> str.	1,660 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.
" 14, <i>Hunan</i> str.	885 "	Kirigomi Coal, to consumers.
" 16, <i>Asosan Maru</i> str.	1,350 "	Takao Dust Coal, to consumers.
" 16, <i>Feiching</i> str.	845 "	Namazuta Dust Coal, to consumers.
" 17, <i>Fujisan Maru</i> str.	1,790 "	Miiké Coal, to consumers.
" 17, <i>Kingsing</i> , str.	1,270 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 17, <i>Kingsing</i> , str.	1,930 "	Miiké Coal, to consumers.
" 17, <i>Kingsing</i> , str.	1,000 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.

KEROSENE OIL.—AMERICAN.—A fairly steady business has been done in "Spot Cargo" since the 28th ult. at very fluctuating figures ranging from Tls. 1.64 to Tls. 1.57, but owing to exceptionally large deliveries and steady fall in exchange prices have recovered to Tls. 1.61. In cargo "to arrive" there has been an active inquiry in the last few days at our previous quotation, viz, Tls. 1.63, for Jan./Feb. sailing, but the rate of Exchange has permitted of the sale of a small quantity only.

Arrivals have been:—

Feb. 1, s.v. <i>Brynilda</i>	with 60,000 cases.	Feb. 7, s.v. <i>Osterbek</i>	with 60,000 cases.
" 3, s.v. <i>Marathon</i>	" 83,000 "	" 14, s.v. <i>Manchester</i>	" 115,000 "
" 3, s.v. <i>McLaurin</i>	" 50,000 "		

Stock, including above arrivals, is about 750,000 cases.

BATOU.—We have not heard of any transactions in this kind among first hands, and business has been confined to re-exports by the one native holder. There have been no arrivals, and we estimate stocks about 134,000 cases.

LANGKAT.—A fair business has been done in this at Tls. 1.50 per case for March, April, May arrival.

Quotations—Devoc's	Tls. 1.61 per case.	One month's delivery...
Batoum, Anchor Chop	" 1.56 "	
" Horse Chop	" 1.56 "	
" Bulk Oil	" 1.40 per two tins.	
Langkat	" 1.40 "	
" at the Tanks	" 1.51½ per case.	
"	" 0.12½ per gallon.	

Exchange.—(Closing Rates)—On London—Telegraphic Transfers, 2s. 5½d. Banks Bills, 2s. 5½d. Banks Bills, 4 months' sight, 2s. 5½d. First-Class Credits to Banks, 4 months' sight, 2s. 6½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 6½d.; Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 2s. 6½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 6½d. On France—Bank Bills, Transfer Fcs. 3.13. Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, 3.18½, 6 months' sight, 3.19½. On Germany—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, Marks, 2.59, lowest 2.59, highest 2.62. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, per \$100 G.\$62½, lowest 62, highest 62½. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, 75, lowest 74½, highest 74½ per \$100. Private Bills, 3 days' sight, 74½, lowest 74½, highest 75. On Yokohama—Telegraphic Transfers, \$81½, lowest 81½, highest 80½ per \$100. Private Bills 15 days' sight, \$80½, lowest 80½, highest 79½. On Bombay and Calcutta—Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 185½, lowest 186, highest 189½ per \$100. Bank Bills, demand, Rs. 186, lowest 186½, highest 190. Bullion—Gold Bars, Shanghai, 98 touch, \$391.50, lowest 391.00, highest 393.00. Silver Bars, \$111.15, lowest 111.10, highest 111.20. Mexican dollars, \$75.20, lowest 74.6, highest 75.3. Carolus dollars, \$85.00, lowest 85.00, highest 86.00. Copper Cash 1,160, lowest 1,150, highest 1,160. Chinese Interest, mace 1.0, lowest 0.8, highest 1.6. Bar Silver in London, per oz. 25½, lowest 25½, highest 25½.

DAILY QUOTATIONS.

(From Messrs. Morris, Fergusson & Robertson's Circular.)

Feb.	Bar Silver £ oz in l/don.	ON LONDON.								FRANCE.		GER- MANY.	NEW YORK.	HONG- KONG.	YOKO- HAMA.	INDIA.
		T/Transfers.		Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m/s.		Francs 4 m/s. and 6 do.		4 m/s. Priv.	Docty. 4 m/s.		T/T	T/T Rep.
		Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.					
15th.....	25½	2.6	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	3.20/3.21	3.23½/24½	2.62	62½	74½	80½	189½
16th.....	25½	2.5½	2.6	2.6	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	3.18½/19	3.21/3.22	2.60	62	74½	81	187
17th.....	25½	2.5½	2.5½	2.6	2.6	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	3.18/3.19	3.19½/20½	2.60	62	74½	81½	188½
18th.....	25½	2.5½	2.5½	2.5½	2.6	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	3.17/3.18	3.18½/19½	2.59	62	74½	81½	188
19th.....	25½	2.5½	2.5½	2.5½	2.5½	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	3.17/3.18	3.18½/19½	2.59	62	74½	81½	188
21st.....	25½	2.5½	2.5½	2.5½	2.5½	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	2.6½	3.18/3.19	3.18½/19½	2.59	62	75	81½	185½

Shares.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report of 21st February:—

Business has been rather meagre during the week.

BANKS.—*Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.*—Cash shares changed hands at 178 per cent premium, which is the only business reported in this stock. *Hongkong* quotes sellers at 173 per cent premium, ex dividend. *National Bank* shares changed hands in Hongkong at \$19 to \$18½.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Business has been confined to a small lot of *North-Chinas* at \$200. *Cantons* are offering in Hongkong at \$150.

FIRE INSURANCE.—No local business reported. *Hongkongs* are offering, in Hongkong, at \$372½, while *Chinas* changed hands there at \$107½. *China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.*—The report and accounts to the 31st December last have been published. The meeting of shareholders will be held in Hongkong on the 28th current, 1898. The net profits amount to \$259,953.45, equal to 65.99 per cent on the paid-up capital, as against 50.26 per cent in the previous year. The losses absorbed 14.13 per cent of the premiums, and the expenses 21.73 per cent, making in all 35.86 per cent as compared with 37.35, 22.39 and 49.74 per cent respectively in 1896. The Directors propose to divide the balance as follows:—\$133,000 as a dividend for the year at the rate of \$6.65 per share, \$13,803.45 as a Bonus to contributing shareholders, and \$113,110 to the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at \$1,000,000, 1897. The net premiums amount to \$252,021.30, which are \$7,730.90 less than those of the previous year. The total income is \$330,907.60 which is \$2,445.03 less than that of the previous year, and the balance carried forward is \$237,802.90, which was exceeded by that of 1896 by \$29,361.21. The Directors propose to alter the Deed of Settlement in order to lay aside 10 per cent of the yearly profits, to be placed to credit of a fund for the equalisation of dividends.

SHIPPING.—*Indo-China S. N.* shares were placed at \$40 cash, \$41½ for March, and \$42 for April. *China Mutual S. N.* £5 Ordinary shares were sold at \$26, and more are wanted.

SUGAR COMPANIES.—*Perak Sugar Cultivation* shares changed hands at \$37, and *China Sugar Refining* shares were placed to Hongkong at \$170, with exchange 74, and locally for March at \$175. *Luzon Sugar Refining* shares are quoted \$41 nominal.

MINING.—*Belmont Consolidated* shares, which are in liquidation, have changed hands at \$2.50.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—*Shanghai Dock* shares have been sold at \$72½. *Shanghai & Hongkong Wharf* shares have been in demand, and business has been done at \$123, gradually rising to \$127 cash, \$127 for March, and \$126 to \$130 for the 31st May. *Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.*—The Directors' report and statement of accounts for the half year to the 31st December last will be presented to the shareholders at the meeting held to-day in Hongkong. The net profits amount to \$260,935.43, equal to 16.70 per cent on the capital, as against 20.34 per cent in the previous half year. Including a balance of \$95,790.92 from the previous half year, there is a sum of \$356,726.40 to divide. The Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 3 per cent and a bonus of 4 per cent to shareholders, which will absorb \$137,500, a bonus of \$20,000 to contributing shareholders, to write off \$35,838.26 be written off from the value of the Kowloon Docks, and \$6,103.41 from the Cosmopolitan Docks, which will leave a balance of \$107,284.73 to be carried forward. *Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd.*—The Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for 1897 have been published, and will be presented to the shareholders at the meeting called for to-morrow. The net profits for the year amount to \$81,084.61, equal to 8.41 per cent on the capital, as compared with 6.97 per cent in 1896. After writing off \$29,395.31 for depreciation, and the interim dividend of 2½ per cent paid in August, and adding \$10,119.41 brought forward from the previous year, there is a sum of \$64,803.51 to be dealt with; out of which the Directors propose to declare a final dividend of 3 per cent, making 5½ per cent for the year, and to carry forward \$9,808.51.

LANDS.—*Shanghai Land Investment* shares were placed at \$95, at which there are sellers.

INDUSTRIAL.—In *Cotton Mill* shares, *Evos* were placed at \$101, *Internationals* at \$110, and *Laou-kung-mow* at \$110. *Yah Loong* shares are offering. *Shanghai Ice* shares have been placed at \$102 to \$112, and are still wanted. *Shanghai Rice Mill* shares were sold at \$30.

TUGS & CARGO BOATS.—*Shanghai Cargo Boat* shares were sold at \$185 and are wanted. *Co-operative* shares changed hands at \$170.

MISCELLANEOUS.—*Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco* shares have been offering, and business was done at \$90 cash and \$97 for the 31st May. *Shanghai Langkat Tobacco* shares are quiet, with inclination to sell. *Hull & Holtz* shares have been sold, almost daily, at \$38½, and are still wanted, holders asking \$40.

LOANS.—In Debentures, *Shanghai Municipal* 5½ per cent have been sold at \$100 and \$101, and *Perak* 7 per cent at \$100, plus the accrued interest in both cases.

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Return on Inv. allowing for Amortisation.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1888	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$100	6 %	Dec. & June.	...	nominal.
Do. 1890	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$100	6 %	Do.	...	...
Do. 1891	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$100	5½ %	Do.	(g) 5.50%	\$100.00
Do. 1892	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$100	5 %	Do.	...	(a) \$97.00
Do. 1893	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$100	5½ %	Do.	(g) 5.50%	(a) \$100.00
Do. 1894	\$105,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$100	6 %	Do.	...	(a) nominal
Do. 1895	\$115,000.00	\$115,000.00	\$100	5 %	Do.	(g) 5.27%	(a) \$97.00
Do. 1896	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$100	5 %	Do.	(g) 5.26%	(a) \$97.00
Lycium Theatre Debentures.....	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$25	4 %	24 July 1895	...	\$16.00
Chinese Imp. Government Loan 1886 E	\$1767,200.00	\$680,104.00	\$250	7 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.98%	(a) \$275.00
Shanghai Land Inv. Co. Debentures. 1890	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100	6 %	May & Nov.	(g) 5.76%	(a) \$102.00
Do. Do. 1892	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100	5½ %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.50%	(a) \$100.00
Do. Do. 1894	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100	5 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.80%	(a) \$102.00
Do. Do. 1896	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$100	5 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.44%	(a) \$95.00
Shanghai Waterworks Co. Debentures '94]	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100	6 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.72%	(a) \$103.50
Do. " '96]	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100	5 %	June & Dec.	(a) 5.44%	(a) \$95.00
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co. "	\$40,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100	6 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.60%	(a) \$102.00

AUCTION SALES.

Auctions for the week ending 19th February, 1898, comprised the following Goods:—

	For the week.	Previous week.	Corresponding week last year.		For the week.	Previous week.	Corresponding week last year.
Grey Shirtings	12,925 pcs. against 14,845 pcs. and 18,430 pcs.			Velvets	60 pcs. against 60 pcs. and 144 pcs.		
White Shirtings	5,387 " " 5,370 " " 8,650 "			Velveteens	54 " " 54 " " " "		
T-Cloths	1,102 " " 1,284 " " 3,010 "			Cotton Italians	600 " " 600 " " " "		
Drills, English	300 " " 225 " " 300 "			Camlets	580 " " 580 " " 810 "		
Jeans	220 " " 340 " " 320 "			Long Ells	760 " " 760 " " 610 "		
Sheetings	620 " " 320 " " 1,000 "			Lastings	380 " " 380 " " 680 "		
Turkey Reds	" " " " 1,460 "			Spanish Stripes	546 " " 618 " " 598 "		

At E-Wo, 16th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—8.4-lbs.—1,380 pieces; Black Tea Caddy £1.83/83½, Red Dragon and 6 Women £2.11½/11½, Red Tea Caddy £2.28 and Blue Dragon E-Wo £2.29½.

10-lbs.—750 pieces; Red Dragon and 5 Men £2.57/57½, Green Dragon and 5 Men £2.58½/59½, and Blue Crab £2.64½.

White Shirtings.—507 pieces; Man and Piano £2.38½, Snake £2.52, Elephant £2.65, Squirrel £2.92, 10 Brothers £3.21, House No. 3 £3.08½, do. X £3.40, do. Y £3.62, do. Z £3.73, M.T.M. £3.30 and 6 Brothers £3.55.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—350 pieces; Red Tea Caddy £1.62½/63.

8-lbs.—132 pieces; Blue Dragon XIX £2.25½.

Jeans.—English.—8-lbs.—100 pieces; Tiger and Tree £2.57½.

Drills.—English.—14-lbs.—300 pieces; Bat and Stag £2.76½/77½.

Sheetings.—14-lbs.—500 pieces; Bull's Head £2.81½/81½.

American.—14-lbs.—1,600 pieces; Pig's Head £2.92, Bear's Head £2.96½, Double Rabbits £2.99.

At Yuen-foong, 17th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—6-lbs.—500 pieces; Lotus £0.76½.

7-lbs.—1,575 pieces; Blue Britannia £1.62/62½, Blue 4 Sister £1.71½.

8.4-lbs.—4,770 pieces; Green 9 Lions £1.70, House £1.71/71½, Double Man £1.75½/75½, Blue Britannia £1.89, Blue 3 Students £2.12, Blue 4 Sisters £2.04½, Blue Double Shield £2.16½/16½, Red 3 Students £2.20½/20½, Red Emperor's Birthday £2.23½, 7 Sisters £2.28, 5 Brothers £2.36½/37, and 8½-lbs.—150 pieces; 18 Brothers £2.47.

10-lbs.—1,400 pieces; Red Britannia £2.65, Red 3 Students £2.66½/67½, Red Emperor's Birthday £2.68½, Red 4 Sister £2.73½, and Painted 8 Literati £3.06.

10.12-lbs.—950 pieces; Gold Britannia £2.92½/93, Lily £3.38/38½.

11-lbs.—250 pieces; Painted 3 Students £3.02½.

12-lbs.—1,200 pieces; China Square £2.89½/90, Nine Lions £2.95, Soldier £3.01, and Lily £3.81½/32½.

White Shirtings.—64-reed.—1,900 pieces; House Bright £2.11½/11½, do. Dull £2.09, Blue 4 Lighthouse Bright £2.14/14½, do. Dull £2.31, and Black Gold 3 Students £2.53½/53½.

72-reed.—3,580 pieces; White Gold 3 Students £2.72½, Red 2 Sisters, Bright £2.72½, Red 2 Light House Bright £2.73/73½, do. Dull £2.75½/78½, Red Gold Star, Bright £2.91½/92, do. Dull £2.94, Red 5 Star, Bright £3.17, Painted 4 Sisters, Bright £2.90/93½, do. Dull £2.97½/98, Black Flag Chief £3.25½, Painted Grand Fathers £3.52, Painted Lily £3.68½ and Students £4.26½.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—420 pieces; Blue 3 Students £1.46½, Red Double Shield £1.65, Red 3 Students £1.72.

8-lbs.—200 pieces; Painted 3 Students £2.23½/24½.

Jeans.—8-lbs.—120 pieces; Double Squirrel £2.45½.

Sheetings.—14-lbs.—120 pieces; Old Man Head A. £2.96.

Black Cotton Italians.—600 pieces; Painted Grand Father £4.00/02½, Students £4.12½/15, Painted 9 Lions £4.37½, Painted 2 Sisters £4.42½, and Lily £6.10/12½.

At Nic-kee, 19th inst.—

Black Velvets.—60 pieces; 22-in. Lion and Flag £0.1.66.

Velveteens.—54 pieces; 18-in. Lion and Flag £0.12.6, 26-in. Snowfall £0.1.6.

AUCTION SALES OF WOOLLENS DURING THE WEEK.

Chops—	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Dk. G'tian.	Gr. & N. Green.*	Orange* & Yellow.	Ash & Lav.*	White	Purple	Black.	Brown & Mag.	Mauve.	Lt. Mid. „	Gt. „	Sales Pcs.
	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.
Camlets.														
Lighthouse, s.s.o. p. pc.	14.90	14.17½	14.50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.17½	...	
Sales, pcs.	20	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10*	...	50
9 Old Man, s.s.o. p. pc.	13.85/87½	13.70/77½	13.80	15.40	13.97½/14.20	15.45	...	...	...	...	...	13.85	13.00	
Sales, pcs.	120	60	60	10*	20*	10	...	...	...	...	...	10	20	310
Goose, p. pc.	13.75/78	...	13.70	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Man & Horse, p. pc.	13.59/60	...	13.62/63	15.16/20	13.80/81	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	50	...	30	30*	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Long Ells.														
Tiger & King, c.r.h. p. pc.	7.10/12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Sales, pcs.	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Horse Head, h.d.b. p. pc.	7.30/32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
Sales, pcs.	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Double Phoenix, p. pc.	7.25/29	...	...	7.15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	340
Sales, pcs.	300	...	...	40*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Tiger, c.r.h. p. pc.	5.38/40	...	...	7.15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	120	...	...	40*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
Lastings.														
Ship, o.g.r. p. pc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.97½	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...	...	...	...	300
9 Old Man, r.f.r. p. pc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.12½	...	...	10.80	...	
Sales, pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...	...	20*	...	80
Spanish Stripes.														
9 Old Man, a.a.b. p. yd.	0.53½	0.49½	0.51	0.52	0.49½	...	...	0.39½	...	...	0.39½	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	24	6	12	6*	6	...	...	6	...	...	6	...	...	60
Double Phoenix, p. yd.	0.55.9/56.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.54.8/55	...	
Sales, pcs.	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	36
Sea Horse, b.t.f. p. yd.	0.52.9/53.1	...	0.54.8	0.54.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.55.1/55.9	...	
Sales, pcs.	192	...	...	6*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24*	...	234
Buffalo, p. yd.	0.50/51.2	...	0.51.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	48	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Goose, p. yd.	0.49.3/49.4	...	0.52.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	54	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Lion, p. yd.	0.48.7	...	0.51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	48	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Dragon, p. yd.	0.52.4/52.6	...	0.53.9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	30	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 18th February, 1898, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," Nos. 33 to 38, both numbers inclusive.

RE-EXPORTS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS.

Goods.	Ningpo.	Wenchow.	Chinkiang.	Wulin.	Kinkiang.	Hankow.	Ichang & Chungking.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Poochow.	Hongkong.	Japan.	Soochow & Hangchow.	Corea.	Vladivostok.	Local.	Sundries.
Grey Shirtings 1 Pcs.	8,925	...	5,605	950	5,715	57,905	7840	7,014	...	...	800	...	1650	...	7,950	...	10,000	150
T-Cloths, 32-in.	695	...	1,340	360	410	4,960	...	3,470	...	...	2070	...	...	...	...	...	1,000	...
" 36-in.	1,073	...	...	30	55	240	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	700	...
" Indian, 32 & 36-in.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
White Shirtings	3,755	...	1,180	660	1,890	16,533	700	1,530	...	...	...	...	650	...	430	...	4,000	360
Drills, English & Indian.	105	...	50	...	45	120	420	240	...	...	60	...	900	...	645	...	300	...
" Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
" American	525	...	120	...	15	2,025	150	2,200	...	...	...	...	...	...	75	...	450	...
Jeans, English & Indian.	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	20
" Dutch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	...
" American	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	100
Sheetings, English	400	...	960	1,130	1,700	5,410	120	440	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	...
" Indian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
" American	260	...	60	...	20	...	...	6,285	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	800	...
Dyed Shirtings	...	...	850	...	330	130	...	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
Ble. & Sp. S'tings, D. & W.	...	...	...	...	50	100	...	150	...	...	50	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
Chintzes	...	...	...	...	60	1,220	...	420	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
Printed T-Cloths	360	...	480	...	720	2,810	...	480	...	...	230	...	...	...	...	...	800	...
Printed Twills	60	...	...	...	60	1,397	220	170	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	...
Turkey Red Shirtings	300	...	480	140	200	2,575	100	500	...	...	50	...	...	...	350	...	300	100
Velvets	60	...	...	...	60	108	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120	...
Velvetees	...	...	...	...	54	30	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
Handkerchiefs Doz.	676	...	460	400	1,600	3,300	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,500	...
Muslins Pcs.	300	...	...	...	...	705	...	...	...	...	100	...	...	...	2,222	...	200	...
Lenos & Balzarines	50	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	632	...	200	...
Cotton Varn, Indian Pcs.	60	...	1,758	15	1,233	4,746	2016	1,514	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	...	450	...
" English	...	...	...	...	33	541	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...
" Japan	33	...	...	117	549	2,042	...	2,403	...	...	150	6	...	...	...	...	90	15
" Shanghai	15	...	30	...	228	1,335	...	120	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spanish Stripes, Woollen Pcs.	78	...	132	12	48	252	...	12	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	120	...
" Cotton	...	...	72	...	...	48	...	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	...
Med. & Broad Cloths	54	...	6	6	6	176	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160	...
Camlets	120	...	20	10	120	710	...	10	...	...	60	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
Long Ells	20	...	150	60	140	360	160	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240	...
Lastings	20	...	40	20	320	...	40	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	180	...
Indian Cloth	240	...	210	30	60	959	120	90	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	220	...
Cotton Lastings & Italians	1,389	...	690	100	832	7,979	1189	1,910	...	...	...	...	...	...	472	...	700	...
Plain & Figured Orleans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cotton Flannels	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	...	...	...	...	400	40
" Japan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead-in Pigs Pcs.	...	...	73	...	452	73	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Iron, Nail Rod	1,059	...	1,869	336	67	1,207	...	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kerosine Oil, American Cases	3,195	...	9,000	950	20,290	33,800	...	4,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	11470	...	...	...
" Russian	800	...	2,200	100	5,200	9,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1470	...	...	...

Goods.	TOTAL DELIVERIES.			TOTAL IMPORTS.			Stocks at date are based on the Chamber of Commerce Returns on 31st December, 1897.	
	As above.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1898.	Against last year to same term.	For the week.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1898.	Against last year to same term.	At date Estimated.	Against 10th February, 1897.
Grey Shirtings 1 Pcs.	114,504	402,870	285,561	68,360	205,062	290,785	1,027,192	1,916,926
T-Cloths, 32-in.	14,305	53,345	45,288	8,965	18,032	37,721	279,687	284,891
" 36-in.	2,098	6,784	7,956	4,833	10,069	9,973	70,760	64,490
" Indian, 32 & 36-in.	200	1,750	6,050	...	...	12,510	60,250	35,436
White Shirtings	31,688	114,780	84,931	35,350	85,559	143,635	540,779	716,118
Drills, Eng. & Indian	2,885	8,804	4,420	6,250	12,590	13,864	53,480	169,625
" Dutch	60	450	...	...	...	...	20,355	...
" American	5,560	32,175	15,610	...	38,250	48,915	550,075	334,565
Jeans, Eng. & Indian	360	2,180	3,470	3,540	13,460	7,549	43,900	62,635
" Dutch	80	340	...	...	1,590	...	25,950	8,100
" American	200	1,260	820	...	8,000	2,000	10,760	...
Sheetings, English	10,660	37,425	28,400	4,799	14,090	34,226	54,788	261,669
" Indian	100	700	2,810	...	...	3,210	7,384	68,935
" American	7,425	36,510	11,290	...	23,180	152,330	856,670	1,172,130
Dyed Shirtings	1,660	7,499	9,019	1,195	6,242	14,621	30,092	37,614
Ble. & Sp. S'ts., D. & W.	650	1,857	1,907	250	350	2,038	22,638	27,032
Chintzes	2,100	6,675	5,007	...	...	30,420	63,498	39,915
Printed T-Cloths	5,880	26,844	18,897	3,041	6,926	64,471	410,082	492,770
Printed Twills	2,407	7,645	6,093	598	598	8,084	96,422	105,678
Turkey Red Shirtings	5,105	18,760	12,390	75	10,395	7,442	61,635	249,638
Velvets	378	1,284	1,224	...	670	4,410	18,461	21,930
Velvetees	214	592	588	...	96	1,528	13,623	17,098
Handkerchiefs Doz.	10,136	30,721	29,103	3,505	9,926	53,350	159,056	444,567
Muslins Pcs.	3,527	16,799	2,567	982	2,332	8,725	110,409	106,625
Lenos & Balzarines	907	8,413	200	4,400	13,583	6,012	18,050	17,929
Cotton Varn, Indian Pcs.	11,795	58,505	40,182	25,980	51,330	65,004	102,937	147,549
" English	709	1,876	2,001	978	2,337	432	3,548	3,998
" Japan	5,405	20,961	5,124	14,176	35,893	6,782	23,659	18,654
" Shanghai	1,731	6,143	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spanish Stripes, Woollen	684	2,342	3,006	...	1,416	552	11,106	11,306
" Cotton	288	1,668	1,592	...	816	4,484	17,298	24,210
Med. & Broad Cloths	408	1,646	920	...	1,281	1,913	14,321	13,295
Camlets	1,250	3,930	3,310	...	2,636	4,170	16,606	17,890
Long Ells	1,130	4,530	4,985	...	1,970	7,220	45,875	68,160
Lastings	640	4,030	3,410	...	2,714	8,297	22,477	25,881
Indian Cloth	1,959	7,778	5,132	3,906	8,042	7,329	57,264	55,206
Cotton Lastings & Italians	15,261	52,269	35,118	16,704	76,431	111,252	494,162	480,000
Plain & Figured Orleans	...	50	100	...	...	...	1,850	4,190
Cotton Flannels	542	4,252	3,380	...	5,540	...	59,839	65,350
" Japan	...	665	953	...	186	1,373	?	3,610
Lead-in Pigs Pcs.	598	2,800	5,371	3,209	3,209	9,845	?	12,954
Iron-Nail Rod	4,580	17,038	10,659	...	...	...	47,891	481,859
Kerosine Oil, American Cases	82,705	279,292	244,859	104,263	601,176	67,382	687,378	?
" Russian	19,270	137,120	104,550	...	...	96,536	129,600	?

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 21st February, 1898.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVD. & C.		Average for dividends for 3 years.	Return on investment on average of 3 years' dividends.	CASH QUOTATION	
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders	When paid or due.			Closing.	Tls.
Banks.												
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Co.	80,000	\$125	\$125	\$8,000,000	\$298,863.22	31-12-97	*£14	14-2-98	\$23.96	6.89	\$347.50	253.67
Bank of China & Japan Ltd.	107,483	£8	£3	.....	£50,886.16	31-12-96	none	.....	.....	.....	nom.	nom.
Do. ordinary shares	1,101	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£5.50	nom.
Do. deferred do.	40,453	£10	£8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.00	20.00	14.60
National Bank of China, Ltd.	3,818	£10	£1	\$90,000	\$2,599.92	31-12-96	†\$1.18	1-3-97	\$1.20	.....	nominal	nom.
Do. Founders'	750	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$23.00	16.79
Insurance (Marine.)												
Union In. Society of Canton, Ltd.	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,280,000.00 (c) \$78,048.54	\$674,784.53	30-6-97	†\$16	15-10-97	\$14.33	6.24	\$230.00	167.90
China Traders' Ins. Co., Ltd.	24,000	\$83.33	\$25	\$1,000,000.00 c 158,393.77	\$351,807.25	30-4-97	†\$5	4-10-97	\$5.00	7.04	\$71.00	51.83
North-China Ins. Co., Ltd.	5,000	£100	£25	£250,000.00	£306,887.20	31-12-96	†£18.18	28-4-97	£17.06	8.50	.....	200.00
Yangtze Insurance Ass'n, Ltd.	6,948	\$100	\$60	\$450,000.00 c 76,783.70	\$344,185.07	31-12-96	†\$12	30-4-97	\$11.00	7.80	\$141.00	102.93
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,300,000.00	\$4,276.22	31-12-96	†\$5	13-1-98	\$11.00	7.33	\$150.00	109.50
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$100	\$20	\$10,000.00 c 100,000.00	\$585,932.16	31-12-96	†\$2	27-3-96	\$1.83	12.20	\$15.00	10.95
Insurance (Fire.)												
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,021,688	\$304,817.76	31-12-96	†\$22	6-3-97	\$15.02	4.04	\$372.50	271.92
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$886,850	\$267,164.11	31-12-96	†\$6	1-3-97	\$6.33	5.88	\$107.50	78.47
Shipping.												
H'kong, C'ton & M'cao S.R. Co.	80,000	\$15	\$15	d \$609,000	\$37,344.58	31-12-97	*\$1.20	29-1-98	\$2.22	8.22	\$27.00	19.71
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	49,589	£10	£10	£50,000.00 c 115,698.14	£1,380.16	31-12-96	†£5.07	2-7-96	£3.38	8.45	.....	40.00
Douglas Steamship Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	c 50,694.50	.....	30-6-97	†\$4.00	27-9-97	\$6.00	10.52	\$57.00	41.61
Ch. Mutual S.N. Co. pref. shares.	16,736	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	60.00
Do. ord. do.	1,231	£10	£10	c 14,005.45	£1,490.94	31-12-96	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nom.
Do. do. do.	15,505	£10	£5	d 122,189.11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7.54	.....	26.00
Sugar Companies.												
Persak Sugar Cultivation Co. Ltd.	5,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$7,156.07	31-8-97	†\$2	23-1-96	\$0.67	1.81	.....	37.00
China Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	none	\$2,221.08	31-12-96	†\$5.50	29-3-97	\$5.83	3.38	\$172.25	125.74
Luzon Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	7,000	\$100	\$100	none	\$12,766.38	31-12-96	†\$5	27-3-96	\$2.67	6.67	\$40.00	29.20
Mining.												
Sheridan Con. M. & M. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$7131,536.34	31-12-96	none	.....	none	.....	.....	2.50
Punjom Mining Co. Ltd.	59,349	\$4	\$4	.....	.....	.....	\$0.20	11-1-97	\$0.07	1.03	\$6.75	4.93
Do. pref. shares.	30,000	\$1	\$1	.....	\$15,657.81	30-9-96	\$0.50	11-1-97	\$0.17	.....	\$1.20	0.88
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co. Ltd.	45,000	\$5	\$5	.....	\$56,781.00	9-8-96	*\$2	15-10-94	\$0.48	24.00	\$2.00	1.46
Raub A'lian Gold Min. Co. Ltd.	200,000	£1	13/10	none	\$4,269.16	31-3-96	\$0.22	26-5-96	\$0.07	0.32	\$22.00	16.06
Decks, Wharves and Godowns.												
Byrd & Co., Ltd., Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20.00
Byrd & Co., Ltd., Ordinary	7,800	\$100	\$100	\$190,000.00	\$11,742.10	30-4-97	†\$117	29-7-96	\$39.00	.....	.....	185.00
S. C. Farnham & Co., Ltd.	7,500	\$100	\$100	.....	\$18,356.95	30-6-97	†\$12	9-9-97	\$12.67	7.72	.....	164.00
Shai E. S. & Dock Co., Ltd. ord.	6,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$14,916.64	30-4-97	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	72.50
Do. Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	250.00
H'kong & W'pao Dock Co. Ltd.	12,500	\$125	\$125	\$700,000	\$95,790.92	30-6-97	*12%	23-8-97	\$25.83	6.24	\$413.75	302.10
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co.	15,100	\$100	\$100	.....	\$20,617.91	31-12-96	†\$3.00	20-8-97	\$6.72	5.50	.....	122.00
H'kong & K'loon Wh. & G. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$10,115.41	31-12-96	†\$1.25	9-8-97	\$2.75	4.74	\$58.00	42.34
Lands.												
Sh. Land Investment Co., Ltd.	26,000	\$50	\$50	\$200,000.00	\$4,614.61	31-12-97	\$3.25	7-2-98	\$4.38	4.61	.....	95.00
H'kong Land Invest. & A. Co. Ltd.	50,000	\$100	\$50	\$1,250,000.00	\$57,856.26	31-12-97	†\$4	29-1-98	\$4.00	5.55	\$72.00	52.56
Kowloon Land & Building Co. Ltd.	5,960	\$50	\$30	none	\$164.60	31-12-97	†\$1.00	27-1-98	\$0.87	4.83	\$18.00	13.14
Humphreys Estate & F. Co. Ltd.	25,400	\$10	\$10	\$25,000.00	\$519.29	31-12-96	†\$0.70	23-2-97	\$0.70	7.56	9.25	6.75
Industrial.												
Shanghai Gas Co.	3,000	\$100	\$100	\$100,000	\$13,854.19	31-12-96	†\$8.00	20-1-98	\$14.41	6.64	.....	217.00
Major Brothers, Ltd.	5,500	\$50	\$50	.....	\$12,474.07	31-12-96	†\$1.50	9-12-94	.....	.....	.....	32.00
Ewo Cotton Sp. & W. Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$2,303.86	31-10-97	†\$3.50	24-11-97	.....	.....	.....	101.00
International Cotton Man. Co. Ltd.	7,620	\$100	\$100	.....	\$2,678.69	30-9-97	†\$3	50-8-11-97	.....	.....	.....	110.00
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	110.00
Soy Chee Cotton Spin. Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$500	\$500	.....	\$7469.00	1-2-98	†\$20	.....	.....	.....	.....	520.00
Yeh Loong Cotton Spin. Co. Ltd.	7,500	\$100	\$100	\$2,366.61	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	92.50
Shanghai Ice Co.	540	\$100	\$100	\$16,800.00	.....	31-10-97	†\$6	2-1-97	\$9.00	8.04	.....	112.00
Shanghai Rice Mill Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$25	\$25	.....	\$649.65	31-12-97	†\$1.75	7-2-98	.....	.....	.....	30.00
China Flour Mill Co., Ltd.	3,000	\$50	\$50	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	62.00
American Cigarette Co., Ltd.	1,500	\$50	\$50	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	100.00
H'kong Cotton S. W. & D. Co., Ltd.	9,000	\$100	\$20	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	\$17.00	12.41
Shai Feather Cleaning Co., Ltd.	300	\$500	\$500	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	.....	500.00
Tugs and Cargo Boats.												
Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$53,000.00	\$818.50	31-12-95	†\$5	15-12-97	\$20.67	9.84	.....	210.00
Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd.	8,600	\$50	\$50	TT. 120,000.00 c 35,051.10	\$7,935.65	31-12-96	†\$7	27-2-96	\$7.67	6.98	\$110.00	.....
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$100	\$100	\$115,425.39	\$1,403.22	31-12-96	†\$8	2-3-97	\$16.00	8.65	.....	185.00
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$51,152.84	\$1,567.87	31-12-96	†\$9	3-3-97	\$14.33	.....	.....	175.00
Miscellaneous.												
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	7,200	\$20	\$20	\$20,000.00	\$8,362.17	31-12-96	†\$5.63	26-7-97	\$12.58	4.12	.....	305.00
Tientsin Waterworks Co., Ltd.	650	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	.....	TT 101.00	.....
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.	13,000	\$20	\$20	\$5,485.11	\$80,530.33	31-12-95	†\$1.47	15-9-97	\$7.96	8.65	.....	92.00
Shanghai-Langkai Tob. Co., Ltd.	3,980	\$100	\$100	.....	\$7199,114.02	31-12-96	None	.....	.....	.....	(c) 400.00	nom.
Do. New issue	4,000	\$100	\$25	.....	.....	.....	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	nom.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.	1,800	\$50	\$50	\$9,586.26	\$9,751.23	31-12-96	.....	24-4-96	\$4.00	5.33	.....	75.00
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ltd.	1,200	\$100	\$100	.....	\$806.29	31-12-96	†\$7	25-5-93	.....	.....	\$60.00	43.80
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.	6,250	\$20	\$20	\$125,000	\$4,496.49	28-2-97	†\$2	18-10-97	\$3.33	8.65	\$38.50	28.10
A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$10	\$10	\$125,000	\$12,159.15	31-12-96	†\$5	22-5-97	\$0.97	7.76	\$12.50	9.12
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.	8,200	£1	£1	.....	£47.03	31-12-95	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$5.00	3.65
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$10	\$8	none	\$8,119.23	30-4-96	†\$5	29-6-95	\$0.27	2.70	\$10.00	7.30
Central Stores, Ltd.	6,000	\$20	\$15	.....	\$57,869.84	28-2-97	None	.....	.....	.....	\$13.13	9.58

* For half year. † For year. ‡ Interim dividend. § Final dividend for business year. & A deficit. (a) Exclusive of accrued interest. (c) Insurance Fund. (d) Depreciation Fund. (e) Reserve against Exchange and Investment Fluctuations. (f) Bonus. (g) Assuming that they run for the full term. (h) On the 31st December last, there were only £11.00 per share paid up, this, with the further calls of £4.10.0 per share since paid, cover the deficit. (i) Cum the right to the new issue at par. For all Dollar shares the exchange is fixed at 73.

J. P. BISSET & Co.